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'FOOTLOOSE': GAYER THAN YOU THOUGHT

STATE SENATOR HOLDS SIT-IN FOR ANTI-BULLYING BILL



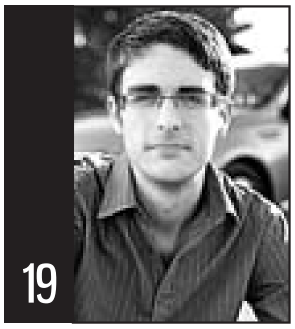
OUT? OUTRAGEOUS!

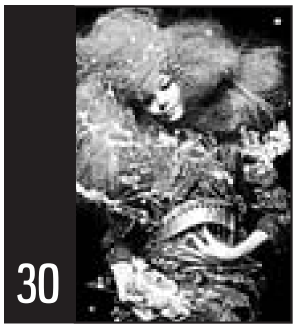
CHARLEY SULLIVAN SHARES INSPIRING STORY AS GAY COACH

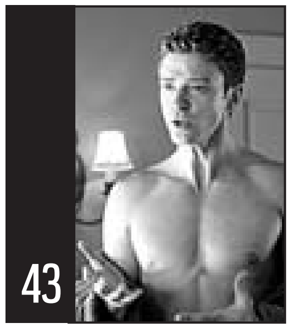
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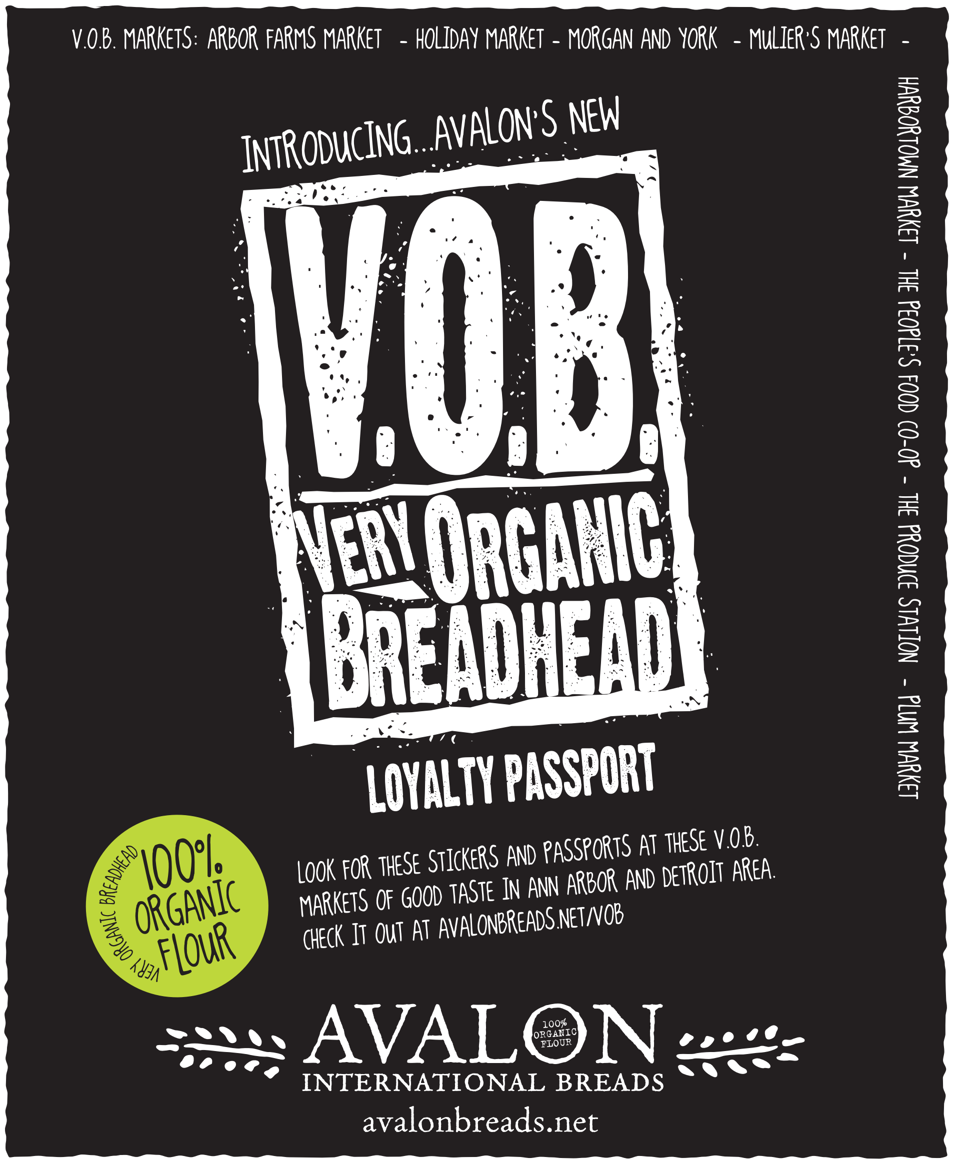
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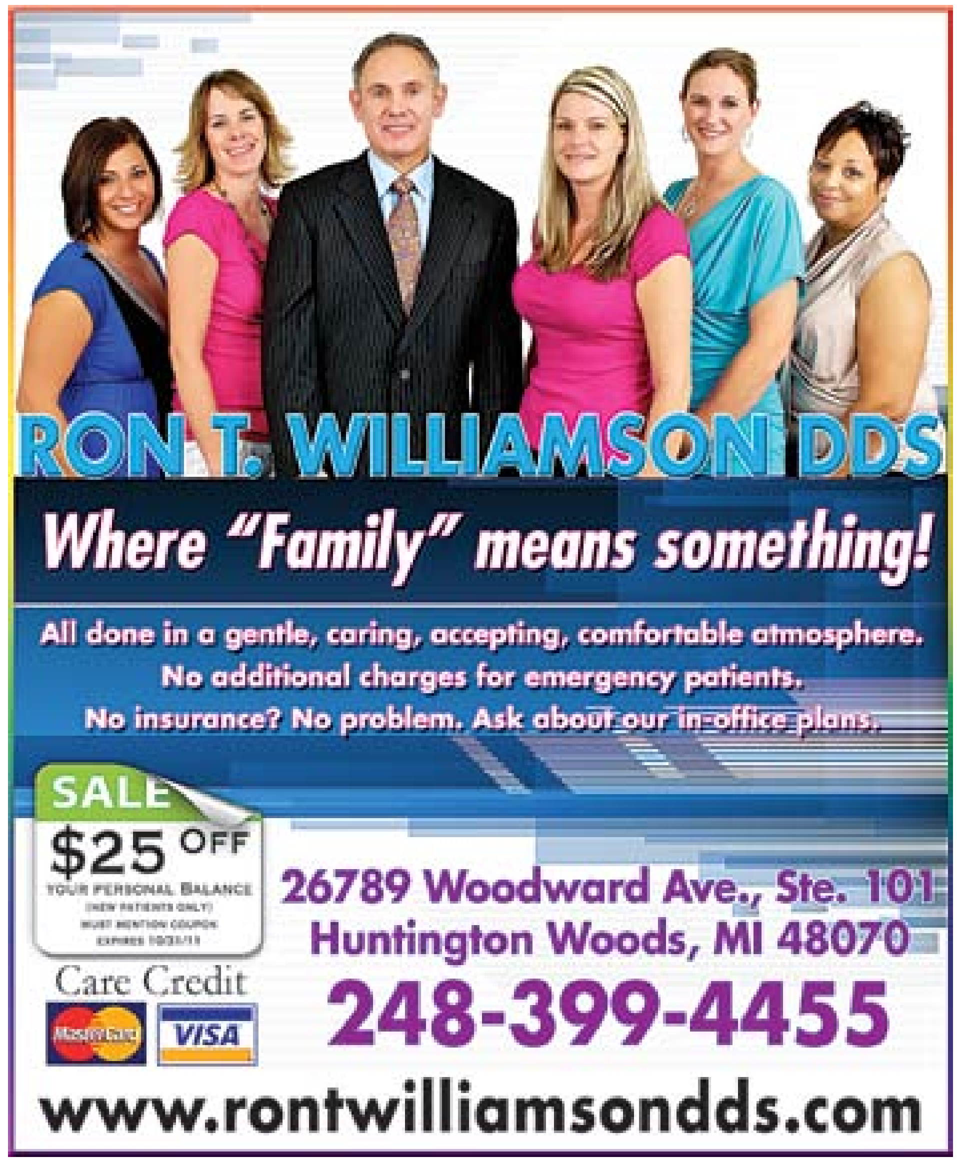
Life

Rear View






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Out? Outrageous!

Openly gay coach works to make sports industry gay-friendly

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

Charley Sullivan says it's OK to be "outrageously queer," even in sports.

A longtime coach, Sullivan has been out his entire coaching career, even though in his field many stay closeted. Those who dare to come out make headlines - such as former Phoenix Suns CEO and President Rick Welts, who hid being gay for 40-plus years as he worked his way up in the industry.

But Sullivan, a successful varsity rowing coach at the University of Michigan, has decided not to hide anything. He hopes one day that gay athletes are as unapologetically out as he is, and he's working hard to make that happen.

First, he's setting an excellent example.



Charley Sullivan blew up the gay blogosphere recently with a column on the popular blog Out Sports. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

'The big queer guy'

Sullivan blew up the gay blogosphere recently with a column on the popular blog Out Sports. In his essay, he proclaimed that not only is he out, but at times he's even "outrageously queer" when he manages a team.

What does he mean by that? He means that he's completely unafraid to be exactly who he is - even if that self is more than a little gay.

"I've found that the best way to let guys be comfortable and know that I'm comfortable is to tell jokes," Sullivan says. "I will tell gay jokes. I will take their jokes among themselves and I will turn the double entendre queer."

Gregg Hartsuff, who has coached with Sullivan since 1992, puts it another way.

"The other day, Charley was demonstrating something on the rowing machine. His movement made him look very homosexual - the way he moved his body, he swayed his hips some way, and he titled his hand and his head and I could see the group of about 20 guys just sort of laughing inside at him being what you'd call the big queer guy.

"I just said: 'Charley that was very gay.' And Charley says: 'Asshole, I am a big queer homo.'"

The exchange caused the young men to crack up, Hartsuff says, "because I said exactly what they were thinking. And it was one of those moments where you know not only is this OK, but we kind of like it. It wouldn't be Charley if it weren't that way."

"I really have come to take the position of - and I wish a lot of gay people would too - if there's a problem here about this, it's *your* problem," Sullivan says.

Pat Pannuto, a U-M graduate student who was coached by Sullivan and Hartsuff for four years, says eventually all new team members figure out that Sullivan is gay - and they don't care. They care more about winning, which Sullivan and Hartsuff help them do: the team has an impressive record, including winning four national championships in a row between 2008 and 2011.

"(Sullivan is) a defining part of my Michigan career," Pannuto says. "He's a defining part of who I am. I'm still at Michigan so I see him a lot, and you can see that he stays in touch with all the alumni. He's a friend-for-life kind of character."

No one would agree with that sentiment more than Hartsuff, who learned Sullivan was gay the very first time they met in 1992 when the head coach paired them up and scheduled an introduction at a coffee shop.

Sullivan and Hartsuff arrived, but the head coach was late. In pre-Internet and cell phone days, the two had nothing to do but wait and chat. The discussion turned to weddings.

"He was planning to get married that spring and I had just gotten married the prior fall," Hartsuff says. "I asked him what his fiancee's name was and he said it was Rob."

"And I thought, OK, short for Roberta?" Hartsuff recalls, laughing.

"He could see the look on my face. I came from a small town, so I hadn't really had any experience at all with homosexuals. If I had encountered them in my previous days they would have been in the closet."

Hartsuff, whose political views lean conservative and Republican, says Sullivan was his first introduction to gay life. Hartsuff also says Sullivan is now one of his best friends, and their athletes understand how much the two respect each other.

Sullivan agrees. "I think we've helped each other grow in significant ways," he says. "He's my best ally in all this."

Forming a gay athletic community

Thanks to his years as a coach and the contacts he's made, Sullivan knows he's not the only gay male coach out there. He wants to create a space to organize and unify coaches like him.

Sullivan is part of a group called the Equality Coaching Alliance. The group is so new that it doesn't even have a website yet, just a Facebook fan page. The idea behind the alliance is to provide a space for coaches to deal with coming out issues, whether it's their own or their athletes'.

The alliance could also provide a unified voice of gay coaches.

"As these sort of gay athletic issues keep coming up now, with professional athletes being fined for homophobic remarks, professional teams making 'It Gets Better' videos - which I think is spectacular - I think there's also a desire to make sure the people who comment on this from the gay community also know about athletics," Sullivan says.

Sullivan also hopes the alliance can encourage athletes not just to *come* out, but to *be* out. While many hope for a professional male athlete to come out, Sullivan says there's a bigger picture to consider.

"For me the question is: when do you have the first guy, who gets drafted into the NFL, already out? Having been recruited to a top college program, already out? Having played at high school, already out? That's the goal."

As a teenager, Sullivan opted to be a closeted athlete. He hopes the world of athletics stops making those who love sports choose between being an athlete or being out. It's not such an impossibility - he lives it every day.

Daring to be an athlete while also being openly gay: it's not such an outrageous idea after all.



Dontchangeyourself.com's website front.

'Gay? You're Fired' education campaign launches on NCOD

DontChangeYourself.com comes out big

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING– In honor of National Coming Out Day, local advocacy groups launched the "Don't Change Yourself. Change the Law" campaign Oct. 11 to raise awareness that in Michigan you can still be fired if your employer even thinks you are gay. The Unity Michigan Coalition, a group of six organizations dedicated to ensuring equality for all Michiganders, announced the campaign to urge the Michigan legislature to update the state's nondiscrimination law, which currently doesn't protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens against discrimination. The campaign message is: "Don't Change Yourself, Change The Law,"and it calls upon House Speaker Jase Bolger to amend the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act. It was passed in 1976 to protect Michiganders from employment and housing discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion and national origin. The Unity Michigan Coalition urges Speaker Bolger and the Michigan legislature to update this law to also protect gay and transgender people against workplace discrimination.

"Being fired because you are gay or transgender is an especially bad consequence in an economy with 10.9 percent unemployment," said Jon Hoadley, Unity Michigan Coalition Director. "How can this be possible in 2011?"

"In this campaign we will offer tongue-in-cheek tips for dressing, social interaction and mannerisms that are sure to convey a stereotypical Not-Gay appearance at work," said Denise Brogan-Kator, executive director at Equality Michigan. "If you're great at your job, you shouldn't have to change anything about yourself to keep it. What really needs to change is the law."

Seventy-three percent of Americans support workplace equality for gay and lesbian employees, and according to a January 2011 Michigan statewide poll conducted by MRG Research, a total of 66 percent of Michiganders favor legislation to protect gay and transgender people from discrimination. "It goes inherently against our American values to fire someone based solely upon who they are or whom they love," said Jay Kaplan, ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project staff attorney. "Across the board, the majority of Americans believe employment decisions should be based on a person's qualifications and work ethic. It's time for our legislature to get in step with the American public."

"I know firsthand what it's like to be fired from your job because of your sexual orientation and regardless of work performance. I was fired from a school district in 2000 solely based on my sexual orientation. In general, but especially in these tough economic times, the recruitment and retention of talent must trump bigotry and homophobia. Everyone should have a fair chance at a good job," said

David Garcia, a victim of workplace discrimination and executive director of Affirmations Community Center. "I'm thankful that the Unity Michigan Coalition is working hard to make sure that this does not happen to anyone else."

Michiganders can join the campaign at DontChangeYourself.com, where they can add their name to the petition to Rep. Bolger, hear more stories like Garcia's, and download Not-Gay posters, screen savers and other "Not-Gay" tips so they can be sure to have a Not-Gay appearance at work.

The Unity Michigan Coalition was formed to ensure that all Michiganders are treated fairly in the workplace by advancing nondiscrimination policies. It includes the ACLU of Michigan, Affirmations, Equality Michigan, KICK, the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion and the Ruth Ellis Center. For more information on the campaign and to sign the petition, go to www.DontChangeYourself.com





Michigan Fairness Forum announces recipients of equality awards

The Michigan Fairness Forum emerged in the aftermath of Proposal 2 in 2004 when the Michigan state constitution was admended to include an anti-gay marriage amendment. As an all volunteer, statewide initiative, it has helped provide a communications link for the state's LGBTQ organizations, conducting research and surveys to help guide a strategic plan to achieve full equality.

This year it recognizes the work of three individuals who have been engaged in helping achieve LGBT equality. Named after three long-time leaders, the awards include the Kathleen Russell Vision Award, the Howard Israel Community Award and the James W. Toy Justice Award. This year MFF recognized the following individuals:

The Kathleen Russell Vision Award has been awarded to Dr. Faye Schuett. MFF called Schuett a "visionary and tireless leader who devoted six years of time, talent and treasure to co-founding and sustaining the Peninsula Group and Michigan Fairness Forum." Schuett is also a leader in diversity efforts at Schoolcraft Community College in Livonia, where she received the Lifetime Achievement Award for her work as founding director of its Service Learning Honors Program.

The Howard Israel Community Award has been awarded to Arlene Kish who has been dedicated to serving and benefiting Michigan's transgender community, "a community that is woefully under-served, often misunderstood and frequently under attack politically, religiously and physically," said MFF leadership. Kish is a transgender community organizer, coordinator, planner and a leader. In her role as transgender community activist, Kish identifies the need for support from an extended range of supporters.

The James W. Toy Justice Award has been awarded to Curtis Lipscomb, a long-time community activist, MFF described Lipscomb as having "enormous wealth of experience and knowledge, as both a professional and as a volunteer. He brings a deep understanding of LGBT issues and a bottomless cup of compassion on behalf of the LGBT community. Enthusiastically open to and well-versed in building collaborative relationships, Curtis has worked with a wide variety of LGBTA community efforts, both in the LGBTA realm and in the general non-profit and for profit worlds." Lipscomb became KICK's first salaried executive director early in 2011 and is the first LGBT community leader to give attention to how metro Detroit and Michigan fit into the larger national LGBT movement.

Learn more about the Michigan Fairness Forum and take the survey off the home page to help build a strategic full equality plan. Visit www.michiganfairnessforum.org

Gleason protests lack of action on anti-bullying legislation

State senator stages sit-in at captiol

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

LANSING– A heated battle on the floor of the Michigan Senate Oct. 7 left State Sen. John Gleason (D-Flushing) so outraged that he spent Thursday night locked in the office of Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing).

In an interview, Gleason announced he planned to carry the protest on into Friday and is called on citizens to join him Friday night in the Capitol as well to protest the Republican-dominated Senate's failure to pass a long-delayed anti-bullying measure.

"I made the decision when the other side was laughing as they got up to explain their 'no' votes," said Gleason. "That's supposed to be the family values and Christians?"

During debate on a bill lift the cap on the number of charter schools in the state, Democrats offered up amendments to the state school code that would mandate anti-bullying policies in the schools. The first amendment, offered by Sen. Glenn Anderson of Westland would have amended state law to include enumerated protected classes required in school policies statewide. Democrats tend to favor the enumeration legislation, saying that by identifying protected classes they are protecting all schoolchildren.

The second amendment was an offer to use legislation favored by Republican lawmakers which would simply bar all bullying.

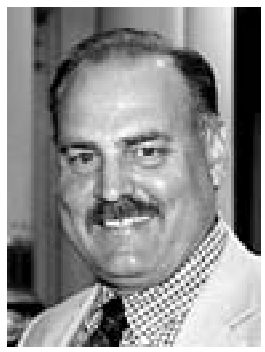
Both amendments were shot down, while the charter cap legislation was ultimately passed.

"The reason I am doing this is I know people, I have had family members tell me they were abused. I've known too many kids who were bullied," Gleason said.

Michigan is one of only three states without some sort of statewide anti-bullying law. Activists have been trying to get the state legislature to pass a law for nearly a decade, but have never been able to get a bill approved by both chambers.

Kevin Epling, whose son Matt committed suicide following a brutal bullying incident in East Lansing, says the Senate is "failing" the youth of the state.

> "The reason I am doing this is I know people, I have had family members tell me they were abused. I've known too many kids who were bullied."
>
> State Sen. John Gleason (D-Flushing)



"We are failing our kids in such a blatant way," Epling said. "We deserve to be one of the last states with a law."

Any anti-bullying legislation that might be passed would be named Matt's Law after Epling's son. Epling has since become a vocal advocate against bullying, giving speeches at schools across the country, and recently participating in a White House Conference on Bullying in D.C.

"While Senator Gleason sat in his office in protest of the disgraceful way that senators reacted to yesterday's efforts by Democratic senators to pass anti-bullying legislation, I fear that the laughter that came from conservative legislators on the Senate floor in response to the efforts may have continued when the senators arrived home," said Emily Dievendorf, policy director at Equality Michigan. "Senators Gleason and Anderson look at legislating with the welfare of our kids in mind, recognizing that we need to address bullying and address it now because our kids are just not making it when we force them to fend for themselves... Unfortunately, the Senate was dominated by the testimony of legislators that allowed their biases to trump attempts to save our kids. Conservative senators have now set the standard for bullying. They taught the younger generation of bullies how it's done."

"Senator Gleason supported enumerated anti-bullying legislation yesterday, and chose to stay in his office, because he cannot in good conscience stand by while other legislators permit the existence of a learning environment that is excluding and killing our kids,"Equality Michigan Executive Director Denise Brogan-Kator said. "I have expressed Equality Michigan's support for Senator Gleason's protest and will stand with him Friday night as he continues to bring attention to the legislature's brazen dismissal of their responsibility to Michigan's children."

"I also encourage people to call, visit, email their senators. Particularly the constituents of those senators who made a mockery of this issue. The citizenry has to rise up and say this is the time. They need to make it happen."

The original story appeared on www.michiganmessenger.com

An open letter to Michigan State Senators

BY BETH RAKESTRAW

I truly hope that you didn,'t laugh.

I truly hope that you were NOT among the state senators who voted down an anti-bullying measure Thursday morning and laughed when you did it.

Because if you did, not only are you a poor excuse for a legislator, you are a poor excuse for a human being.

Children and young people are dying in this state because you will not vote for anti-bullying legislation. And some of you have the incredible and unbelievable lack of compassion and caring to laugh when you vote.

You will not vote for anti-bullying legislation that protects the most vulnerable kids in our society, the ones who are perceived to be gay or lesbian - regardless of the truth about who they really are - or the ones who don't conform to your rigid definition of appropriate gender expression.

You will not vote for anti-bullying legislation that protects all of the children and young people who are perceived to be different, for whatever reason.

The blood of children and young people you refuse to protect is upon your heads.

If you are among those who laughed as you cast your vote Thursday morning against legislation that could save or improve the lives of countless children and young people in this state, regardless of why they are being bullied, you do not care for children and young people in the state of Michigan.

You do NOT deserve to hold the office you do, representing ALL citizens in this state, including the members of the LGBT community who pay taxes that support your salary and are among your constituents, whether you like that or not.

And, if you did NOT laugh when you cast your vote, why did you tolerate such uncaring, inhumane and unprofessional behavior from your colleagues? Because if you did not speak up against this uncaring attitude from your colleagues, you are, at best, thoughtless, and at worst, a coward.

So, when the next child or young person in Michigan commits suicide, will you attend the funeral or memorial service? What will you say to the family and friends who grieve the loss of that child or young person?

Especially if you laughed when you voted ***NO*** against the legislation that could have saved their lives.

Rev. Beth Rakestraw is a pastor at Divine Peace MCC

PAC announces 2011 pro-equality friendly endorsements

On Oct. 5 Equality Michigan Pride PAC announced the public endorsement of 16 pro-equality candidates who are running for office in local municipal elections Nov.8.

"More than ever, Michigan needs elected officials who believe in fairness and equality. Equality Michigan Pride PAC invests in pro-equality leaders who can win. We are proud to support 16 qualified candidates in this year's municipal elections," said Amy Hunter, the group's president. "We are working hard to fund and promote candidates throughout Michigan that will stand up for gay and transgender equality."

Equality Michigan Pride PAC is Michigan's lead funding source that promotes equality for all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

As part of the Nominate a Pro-Equality Candidate campaign, Equality Michigan Pride PAC solicited nominations from supporters and is now asking the public to vote for their favorite pro-equality candidates. The candidates with the most votes will have the opportunity to receive financial support from the PAC.

The 16 pro-equality candidates endorsed by the Equality Michigan Pride PAC are:

Bobby Hopewell (Kalamazoo Mayor)
Stephanie Bell (Kalamazoo City Commission)
Don Cooney (Kalamazoo City Commission)
Bob Cinabro (Kalamazoo City Commission)
Nicholas Wikar (Kalamazoo City Commission)
Nathan Triplett (East Lansing City Council)
Rory Neuner (Lansing City Council)
Lynne Martinez (Lansing City Council)
David Coulter (Ferndale Mayor)
Steve Manchester (Lansing Public Schools, Board of Education)
Dan Martin (Ferndale City Council)
Mike Lennon (Ferndale City Council)
Stephen Rapundalo (Ann Arbor City Council)
Marian McClellan (Oak Park Mayor)
Charles Kellett (Pleasant Ridge City Commission)
Kyle DeBuc (Royal Oak City Commission)

To help decide which candidates will receive financial support, vote for your favorites at www.eqmipridepac.com

'ReIMAGINING WORK' conference coming up

DETROIT – In late October, local and internationally known figures active in building a new, more humane economy will convene in Detroit for a groundbreaking conference and collaborative discussion. Titled 'ReImagining Work', the meeting will take place at Focus:HOPE from Oct 28-30.

"This is an extraordinary time on the clock of the world," according to Grace Lee Boggs, reknowned activist and author of 'The Next American Revolution'. "All over the planet, people are pursuing alternatives to the economics of greed, over- consumption and destruction of the eco-system."

Participants will explore efforts by grassroots organizations to create new ways of living out of the devastation of a dying postindustrial economy. They will emphasize how people are developing sustainable, cooperative and transformative economic and social relationships while reinvigorating democratic action.

Guest speakers Vandana Shiva, Grace Lee Boggs, Gar Alperovitz, Frank Joyce, Jenny Lee, Ron Scott, Gloria Lowe, Shea Howell and others, will discuss the opportunities offered by the accelerating decline of the jobs based economy. As we evolve beyond it, attendees will be encouraged to share their vision of what "work" looks like .

"It's no accident that this meeting is being held in Detroit," says Gloria Lowe, founder of 'We Want Green Too!', and eastside Detroit activist. "We have been among the first to see both the collapse of an unsustainable economic system and the birth of new ways of thinking and doing the work of being human."

The 'ReImagining Work' Conference was launched by the Boggs Center to nurture community leadership,in partnership with East Michigan Environmental Action Council, Allied Media Conference, Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality, Putting the Neighbor Back In the 'Hood, Damon Keith for Civil Rights and Focus:HOPE.

To register or view a detailed schedule of events, visit the website, www.reimaginingwork.org or www.boggscenter.org

Katherine Lee Bates: Author of 'America the Beautiful'

BY JUDD PROCTOR AND BRIAN BURNS>

Exclusively for Between The Lines National Gay History Project

Katherine Lee Bates was born on Aug. 12, 1859, on Cape Cod in Falmouth, Mass., to William and Cornelia Frances Lee Bates. Known as Katie early on, things would not be easy from the start. Her father, a pastor of the First Congregational Church, was too sick to officiate or attend her baptism and died just six days afterward. This prompted her mother to take on odd jobs to support her four children. Bates' brothers even went to work to support the family.

Bates' interest in writing started at an early in life. By age 6, she started keeping a diary, her first being a tiny red leather notebook with the notation "DIARY 1866" in gold. At age 9, one entry stated, "I like women better than men," and "Sewing is always expected of girls. Why not boys?

Bates' family valued education. Her mother graduated from Mount Holyoke Female Seminary and her grandfather had been president of Middlebury College. She too would be well educated.

Just before turning 12, the family moved to Graniteville, Mass., just outside Boston, where she would attend Wellesley High School, graduating in 1874. Bates would also graduate from the more advanced Newton High School two years later.

That same year, in 1878, at age 17, Bates began her long time association with Wellesley College, entering along with 43 other girls in the class of "'80." She would be president of her class, the second to graduate from Wellesley. At the time, it was a bold move, as women were considered not bright enough to tackle to rigors of academic life. But to Bates, it was what she craved.

Bates gained a superb education at Wellesley and became grounded in her studies. Her poetry writing began to flourish with her first poem "Sleep" published in The Atlantic Monthly during her undergraduate years there.

> The two women had met in 1887, and would live together for more than a quarter of a century in what was then known as a "Boston marriage."

After receiving her B.A. from Wellesley College in 1880, Bates entered her career as a teacher, with a stint at nearby Natick High School and then Dana Hall preparatory school. Her big break came in 1885, when she was invited back to Wellesley College to join the English department. Thus began her 40-year legacy at her old alma mater.

During her time at Wellesley, Bates became a prolific author of travel books, volumes of poetry and children's books.

Today she is credited with popularizing the notion that Santa Claus had a wife in the book "Goody Santa Claus On A Sleigh Ride." Before then, Bishop St. Nicholas was unmarried and later transformed into a secular Santa Claus in the 1820s.

On the cover of an early version of the book, Santa hands two children an apple on snow-swept landscape in full color. It was published by D. Lothrop Company.

Written as a long poem in 1889, it depicts Mrs. Claus as wanting to accompany Santa on his Christmas Eve trip to deliver his toys to all the girls and boys -- not a stay-at-home wife. Instead, Santa's wife takes a feminist stance, demanding credit for her hard work in making Christmas possible including cooking to make Santa plump.

Goody Santa Claus, meaning Mrs. Claus, states her case thus:

"Santa, must I tease in vain, dear? Let me go and hold the reindeer,
While you clamber down the chimneys. Don't look savage as a Turk!
Why should you have all the glory of the joyous Christmas story,
And poor little Goody Santa Claus have nothing but the work?"

See History: Bates, page 11

► History: Bates

Continued from p. 10

Katherine Lee Bates



Like her creator Bates, this Mrs. Claus would stand up for herself and beg the same question: Why can't women do the same work as men?

During her Wellesley years, Bates took trips abroad for sabbaticals and summers off. But it would be her cross-country train trip to Colorado Springs in 1893 - she'd been asked to teach a summer session at Colorado College - that would spark the start of her work on her best known poem "American the Beautiful."

The trip over would be a long one with picturesque views through her train coach window.

Passing through Massachusetts and then to New York, there was a brief stop at one of the continent's most famous attractions, Niagara Falls.

Then it was off to Chicago where Bates would have a weekend stopover at the family home of Katherine Coman, professor of economics and history at Wellesley. The two had met in 1887, and would live together for more than a quarter of a century in what was then known as a "Boston marriage."

While in Chicago, they toured what Bates in her diary call "The Fair" - the World's Columbian Exposition, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World. The view of what was described as the "White City" impressed Bates.

From Chicago, on July 3, 1893, both Katherines boarded a train bound for their summer classes in Colorado, passing field of wheat as they traveled west through Kansas and onto Colorado Springs. They would together view the Rocky Mountains for the first time.

At Colorado College for three weeks, the two instructors had time to tour the area during their free time. It was on Saturday, July 22, 1893, that Bates experienced her most exciting excursion. A group of instructors were invited to travel to the top of the mountain that loomed over their town below. At 14,110 feet above sea level, Pike's Peak, while not the tallest in the Rocky Mountain range, commanded the best view for miles around.

The group went by horse-drawn wagon, which included the sign "Pikes Peak or Bust!" Bates described the experience thus, "One day some of the other teachers and I decided to go on a trip to 14,000-foot Pike's Peak. We hired a prairie wagon. Near the top we had to leave the wagon and go the rest of the way on mules. I was very tired. But when I saw the view, I felt great joy. All the wonder of America seemed displayed there, with the sea-like expanse."

Inspired by the majestic view, Bates wrote some verses in her notebook - the start of what would later be known as "America the Beautiful."

It would not be until Bates' return to Wellesley College that she would polish up her verses from Colorado. Her first version of the poem "America the Beautiful" appeared in the Congregationalist on July 4, 1895. While many tunes, including "Auld Lang Sein," were matched to the poem's words and meter, the one that stuck was "Marterna," written by American organist and composer Samuel Ward in 1882. Ward never knew of the union of his tune and Bates' poem: He never met Bates and died in 1903. Known as "the other national anthem," Bates' ode has touched so many lives "from sea to shining sea."

Both Bates and Coman had successful careers at Wellesley College. After graduating as a student, Bates later chaired the English department, and Coman chaired the economics department and was dean of the college. Their relationship grew over the years until they soon considered themselves bound as one. Their friendships included other female couples at the college known as "Wellesley marriages."

While today less well-known than her partner, Coman was ahead of her time as the first woman institutional economist, writing books and articles on the topic.

Coman was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1912. After surgery, Bates helped care for her, even installing an elevator in their home to aid her partner in getting to her office on the third floor of their custom-built house just outside the college.

Coman died on Jan. 11, 1915, at age 57. Bates expressed her grief to a friend saying, "So much of me died with Coman that I'm sometimes not quiet sure whether I'm alive or not."

Bates also wrote of their relationship in a volume of poetry published in 1922 entitled "Yellow Clover, A Book of Remembrance." The poem took its name from the little yellow flowers each had pressed into the letters they wrote to each other when apart.

Bates continued at Wellesley until 1925. During her final years, she continued to write and review the works of others. She died on March 28, 1929, upon which the flag at Tower Court at Wellesley was flown at half-staff. The local newspaper The Townsman printed her obituary written by a Mr. Bradford:

"The death of Katherine Lee Bates means the passing away of one of the most notable citizens of Wellesley, one of the most important figures connected with Wellesley College, and much more than that, a considerable author and creative influence in the whole of American life."

Judd Proctor and Brian Burns host "The Rainbow Minute," a community radio show devoted to LGBT history and culture founded in 2006. Proctor is a retired elementary school teacher and staunch gay activist. Burns is an author and horticulturalist. The couple resides in Richmond, Va.

More LGBT History Month stories can be ound online at our web site throughout October.

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Thinking Out Loud

BY ABBY DEES

Am I post-gay yet?

Or am I just overcompensating for old gay stereotypes?

> When I came out in the 80s, I was only too familiar with the persistent message in the media that Russo so beautifully exposed: that all LGBT people were suicidal, homicidal, mistaken, or - in a strangely repetitive trope - vampires, before they got all cuddly.

Have you become complacent about being gay? I have. As LGBT rights evolve, and LGBT life becomes more normalized to mainstream America, some of us have the good fortune to be blase about being gay. It's a normal response to progress, but there might be something else going on as well: overcompensation.

I live in a liberal neighborhood in Los Angeles, and except when I have a deadline for one of these columns looming, I do not think about being a lesbian. At no point in my day do I stop and think, "Oh, wait, I'm a lesbian - what's our special gay laundry technique again? Despite what my straight guy friends hope, when I kiss my partner at the end of the workday, I do not think, "Let's have a hot lesbian kiss now before we make dinner." My lesbian life is boring, maybe even a let down. This is probably as it should be.

By contrast, though, many of my straight friends (who I don't mean to keep maligning, really) think that I'm all-gay-all-the-time and perhaps oversensitive to the subject. I've written a book about communicating with your LGBT loved one, I've got this here column, and I am prone to screaming in a tic-like fashion at the TV when sweet-faced TV preachers say that God loves all his children, but probably loves straight people a little more. I get how this looks to my friends.

But I don't really put that much energy out in a specifically gay-ish fashion. In fact, I probably babble on way more about a greater passion in my life: the Beatles, though one seems to think I'm oversensitive about John Lennon. So, even with people I care about, I find myself downplaying my already mild support for my own community. I confess that I worry my friends will say, "Oh, she's off again," just because I have to point out that however much you might like Rick Santorum's economic ideas, he actually used the words "man on dog" to explain his opposition to same-sex marriage.

I know why I'm biting my lip: I'm showing that I don't have a chip on my shoulder, that my lesbian identity is a joy-joy modern thing. I worry that if I make too many comments about injustice against LGBT people, people will think I'm - yes - an angry, miserable lesbian. I know better, but it's an old, deep reflex against an old image that hovers around whenever I have a moment of righteous anger or am feeling emphatic. I see it there, in its mannish gray suit and severe hair-do, but others may not.

If you are too young to know what I'm talking about, first, let me say how happy that makes me. Second, it's time for a LGBT history refresher. Please stop everything now and read Vito Russo's seminal The Celluloid Closet (or stream the movie). When I came out in the 80s, I was only too familiar with the persistent message in the media that Russo so beautifully exposed: that all LGBT people were suicidal, homicidal, mistaken, or - in a strangely repetitive trope - vampires, before they got all cuddly. In movies from Basic Instinct, to Personal Best, to The Hunger, there wasn't a feel-good lesbian character to be found. This was so routine that when the sweetly positive lesbian flick, Desert Hearts, came out in 1985 in L.A., every lesbian I'd ever met was in that ticket line opening day, it was so exciting. The audience erupted when the film's lesbian ingenue arrived on the screen, defiant and joyful, driving backwards at 60 miles an hour in her convertible.

Now that we are moving quickly into no-big-deal-land, I sometimes feel like it's my job to be the model post-liberation lesbian, to treat this recent history as quaint and silly - which is a mistake. Last month a 17-year-old boy was shoved and taunted in Tennessee for wearing a GSA t-shirt at his school - his principal reportedly egged his tormentors on. That same week 14-year-old Jamey Rodemeyer killed himself in Buffalo, New York after relentless bullying. Those old images are still around, giving permission to violence and stupidity. We're not post-anything yet.

Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25+ years. She can be reached through her website: queerquestionsstraighttalk.com.





BTL Parting Glances
Then and Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Polish your golden plates, Mitt!

It was once said of George Romney, former Michigan governor (1963 to 1969), "There but for the grace of God goes God." The quip was made in response to photogenic Republican brashness, but there's a grain of theocratic truth to the taunt.

Romney was a Mormon, born of a polygamous family in Mexico, his birth making him ineligible to run for President of the United States. His son Mitt was born in 1947 and raised in Bloomfield Hills, so there's no keeping him from running. Getting elected is another story.

There's concern about Mitt's religion among Christian evangelicals. Mitt they argue is not a true Christian, but member of a cult started by Joseph Smith, Jr., in upstate New York, 1830. (The year Smith translated the Book of Mormon, from golden plates left in his keeping by an angel named Moroni.)

Mark Twain called the Mormon bible, "printed chloroform". Many quotes are lifted verbatim from the King James New Testament. In Mormon theology Jesus visited the Americas after his resurrection, preaching to native populations. (How much lasting good it did is debatable.)

According to Mormon teaching, male priesthood members in good temple-endowment standing will be exalted in the afterlife, and with their wife (or, plural wives) become a god over their own planet, as Adam once was on earth, with wifey Eve.

An "end times" turf war is waged between biblical fundamentalists and the Church of Jesus Christ, Latter-Day Saints (Mormons). The Mormon Church is one of the world's fastest growing faiths (6.5 million members; estimated wealth at $8 billion). With membership predicted to triple in 20 years, it poses a threat to Bible-based faiths.

This October issue of Harper's carries an article, "Pennies from Heaven: How Mormon Economic Shapes the GOP," an eye opener as 2012 looms on the horizon.

Up until the mid-1880s the practice of polygamy was a tenet shared among Mormon leaders and priesthood Saints. (Smith had 44 wives; President Brigham Young, 55. But who's counting?) And, while anyone practicing polygamy today is excommunicated, an estimated 30,000 persons are actively engaged in plural marriages in Arizona and Mexico.

Excommunicated families live covertly and isolated, where teenage girls "harems" are not uncommon. (See Jon Krakauer's shocking disclosure, "Under the Banner of Heaven;" Random House; or Fawn Brodie's bio of Smith, "No Man Knows My History." Brodie has been excomunicated for her honesty.)

Mormon leaders have never publicly denounced Smith's polygamy revelation as false or doctrinally unsound. Its overt expression was reluctantly abandoned in exchange for Utah statehood.

Krakauer's book quotes Mormon President, Prophet, Seer, and Revelator John Taylor (1880): "God is greater than the United States...Polygamy is a divine institution. It has been handed down direct from God. No nation on earth can prevent it. The United States cannot abolish it."

Biblical traditionalists fear Mormon missionaries will continue to steal converts, gain stronger political and economic clout, and - as God's Restoration Church, self-styled - at some future date press for legal resumption of the overt "spiritual blessing" of polygamy as optional to those spiritually inclined to practice it. (So, much for their $20 million opposition to California same-sex marriage.)

While the Mormon Church is homophobic ("masturbation leads to becoming gay"), conservative, aligned with Focus on the Family and the American Family Association in promoting heterosexist family values, a Constitutional Amendment limiting marriage to "a man and a woman" may neatly checkmate future moves toward polygamy.

Halloween Footnote: The Mormon Church practices baptism for the dead. Recent proxy baptisms for Holocaust victims got the church in hot baptismal water with Orthodox and Conservative Jews. (Oh, yes! Blacks were excluded -- their color the Genesis "mark of Cain -- from the priesthood until 1978.)

Charles@pridesource.com.



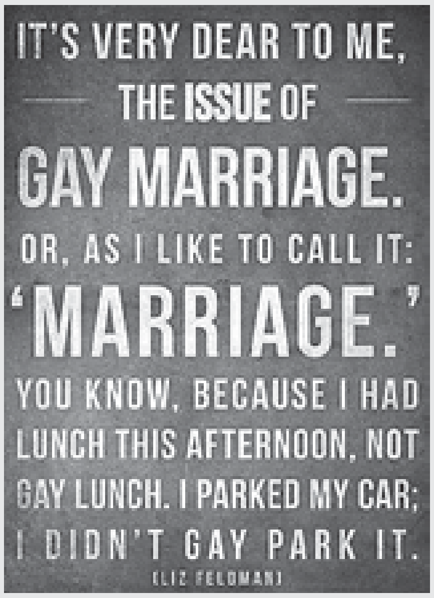






Heard on Facebook

We just had to gay share this with you



So right!
– Diane Holcomb

I love this! I'm not doing my "laundry," I'm "gay washing my sheets." Later I may just "gay dust" my furniture.
– Jim Higgins

I love it !
– Kathy Hirsch

I gay love this!
–Jenny Brown

I'm going to be gay working all day today. This made my day.
– Kortlyn Ford-Johnson

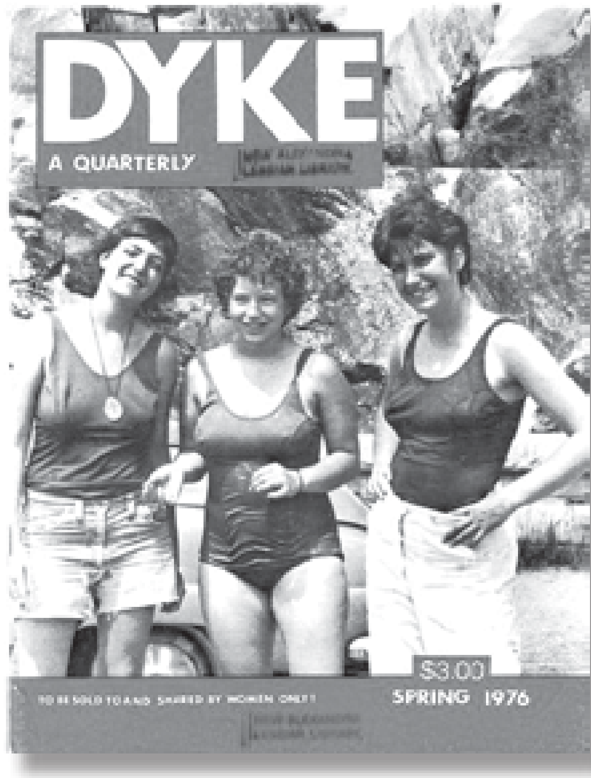
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BTL S/he Said

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL

LGBT History, Heterosexism, Racism



DYKE Magazine photo by Joan E. Byron, is part of collection on exhibit in NYC this month. Editor's note: Susan Horowitz, publisher of BTL printed this publication on her printing press in 1976. Horowitz was part of Tower Press a lesbian print shop in NYC from 1975 - 1993.

The sudden development of feminist and lesbian feminist publications in the early 1970s increased the demand for visual images and offered opportunities for self-representation, visibility and community building. (Lesbian feminist photographers)... joined lesbian feminist artists in a number of other mediums, lending a face to this new politic. Men had long constructed the female body according to the dictates of heterosexual male desire, and never more so than in art. Indeed, even lesbians often saw their own bodies through a heterosexual male aesthetic filter. With its ability to reveal and document new social worlds, photography became a particularly useful artistic medium to thwart this sexist tradition. Explaining why women had been involved with the practice of photography since its creation, Annie Gottlieb explained that 'an art so new was not surrounded by entrenched taboos or possessed by the mystique of brotherhood; was not, for that matter, taken seriously as an art, any more than women were taken seriously as artists. This gave women a paradoxical advantage in gaining a foothold.'"

-From the catalogue essay from an exhibition titled "Lesbians Seeing Lesbians Building Community in Early Feminist Photography," at the Leslie/Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, www.leslielohman.org, ending Oct. 22.



Kwame Anthony Appiah

"Slavery was an economic system. But it was also an honor system. However low you were as a white person, you had an honor above any black person. Heterosexism is not about economy; it's about family. But the idea of honor is the same. To call someone gay, especially in bullying terms, is to dishonor them. But now we have this moment, all the 'It Gets Better' videos, where gay people are having their Frederick Douglass moment, where someone who is supposed to be dishonorable shows himself as an amazing gent and refutes the notion that a person is bad just because they are black or gay."

-Kwame Anthony Appiah, philosophy professor, Princeton University and author of "The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen," in an interview titled "Honor, race, sexuality all linked, philosopher opines," connecting honor, ethics, heterosexism, racism, sexism, www.commercialappeal.com, Sept. 22.

Strong Plurality Say They'd Be Less Likely To Support A Presidential Candidate Who Backs A Ban On Gay Marriage

	More Likely	Much	Less Likely	Much
Overall	25	20	42	35
Leaned Republicans	38	29	27	20
All Others*	21	17	47	40

*Extrapolated based on results of Q. 901, which indicate 25 percent of those polled are leaned Republicans

"The new ABC/Washington Post poll contains some very good news for supporters of marriage equality: Not only do a strong plurality of Americans more say they'd be less likely to support a candidate who favors a ban on gay marriage, there's a significant intensity gap in favor of marriage equality. Overall, 42 percent of Americans said they'd be less likely to support a candidate who favors banning gay marriage - including 35 percent who would be much less likely to do so. Only 25 percent said they'd be more likely to support a candidate who favors a ban on gay marriage, including 20 percent who said they'd be much more likely to do so."

-Jamison Foser, in an article titled "Poll: Voters Less Likely To Back Candidate Who Opposes Marriage Equality," http://equalitymatters.org, Oct. 05. The poll was conducted between September 29-October 2, 2011 among a random national sample of 1,002 landline and cell phone-only adult respondents.



The Supreme Court's decision to refuse to hear Adar v. Darlene Smith discriminates against gay couples.

Supreme Court refuses gay couples appeal

BY LISA KEEN

The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to hear a case that challenged a "back door discrimination" against a gay couple by a Louisiana state official.

The case, Adar v. Darlene Smith, was filed by Lambda Legal Defense on behalf of a gay couple who sought an amended birth certificate for a Louisiana boy they adopted in New York. Couples who adopt children routinely seek amended birth certificates to establish the legal relationship between the parents and the child. Louisiana's Registrar, Darlene Smith, routinely grants them to heterosexual married couples. But Smith refused to provide Oren Adar and Mickey Ray Smith (no relation to the registrar) with an amended certificate, saying she was barred from doing so by a Louisiana law prohibiting unmarried couples from adopting.

Given that most states do not allow gay couples to marry, the Louisiana law discriminates against same-sex couples and their children in an indirect way. (Adar and Smith lived in New York before that state allowed same-sex couples to marry; they now live in California, which does not currently enable them to marry.) The inability to obtain an amended birth certificate can have direct consequences, making it more difficult for the parents to verify their family relationship to schools, medical providers, insurers and even law enforcement and customs officials.

Jon Davidson, legal director for Lambda Legal, said he believes Louisiana's Registrar would have refused the amended birth certificate even if the gay couple had been able to marry in New York. He notes Louisiana also has a constitutional amendment that bars recognition of same-sex relationships.

"I believe they would say that Louisiana does not recognize their marriage... so that the couple, for purposes of Louisiana law, is still unmarried," said Davidson. "Their position likely would be that they do not provide amended birth certificates reflecting the names of two unmarried parents and they consider this couple unmarried."

Lambda had argued that the state official's refusal to grant the amended birth certificate violated the couple's right to equal protection of the law, as well as the "full faith and credit" clause of the U.S. Constitution. The "full faith and credit" clause requires that, "Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state." Lambda said that covers the state's Registrar; but, Louisiana argued that it covers only courts and judges, not non-judicial officers. And, in an 11 to 5 vote, the 5th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals agreed.

> The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to hear a case that challenged a "back door discrimination" against a gay couple by a Louisiana state official.

By refusing to hear Lambda's appeal of the 5th Circuit ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court allows that ruling to stand for the three states of the 5th Circuit - Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. But Jenny Pizer, legal scholar for the Williams Institute, said the implications are "potentially very substantial."

"As states continue to diverge - with some offering full equality to LGBT people and others still moving firmly in the other direction," said Pizer, "interstate questions are likely to proliferate, especially with respect to family issues involving same-sex couples, transgender people, and their children."

Pizer noted that the U.S. Supreme Court takes only a "tiny fraction" of the cases brought to it each year and that it is also possible the high court will wait until a different circuit court rules differently from the 5th Circuit to take an LGBT-related full faith and credit case.

"But it's difficult for those affected during that process," said Pizer, "especially when a new limiting principle newly closes courthouse doors and the needs of parents and children are ignored and, in most instances, ultimately denied."





BTL Creep of the Week

Proposition 8 Legal Defense team

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Hey, did you hear the one about the judge who ruled against Prop 8 in California being a homo? And how his ruling shouldn't count because he's gay? LOL, am I right?

Actually, the idea that a gay judge can't be trusted to make a ruling on a case that impacts gay people is ridiculous. But that's the very argument proponents of Prop 8, California's 2008 anti-gay marriage amendment, are continuing to make about U.S. Chief Judge Vaughn Walker, who struck down the amendment as unconstitutional.

"Proposition 8 fails to advance any rational basis in singling out gay men and lesbians for denial of a marriage license," Walker wrote in his opinion.

Naturally supporters of Prop 8 weren't particularly happy with this ruling. But when it became known that Walker was not only gay but also had been in a 10-year relationship with a man, Prop 8ers went absolutely apoplectic.

"But, but, but... he's one of {ITAL them,}" they stammered. "Walker is nothing but a secret gay soldier in the war against marriage! He must be stopped!"

Prop 8 proponents believe that Walker is an activist judge of the worst kind - the kind that doesn't rule in their favor.

As far as Prop 8 supporters see it, Walker's ruling is nothing but a blatant display of self-interest. You see, only heterosexuals should be allowed to decide whether or not gays and lesbians are allowed to marry.

And so Prop 8 supporters have asked a federal judge to vacate Walker's ruling because Walker doesn't count as a real judge since he's a homo and homo judges should only be able to rule on non-homo cases.

When it became known that Walker was not only gay but also had been in a 10-year relationship with a man, Prop 8ers went absolutely apoplectic.

Keep in mind that Chief Judge James Ware, who replaced Walker after Walker retired, already ruled that Walker's ruling is fine and not at all invalid because of his sexual orientation, essentially telling the Prop 8 folks where to go.

Ware said that claims that Walker couldn't be trusted to rule on cases involving LGBT issues was "as warrantless as the presumption that a female judge is incapable of being impartial in a case in which women seek legal relief."

This, of course, only led Prop 8 folks to claim that two judges were wrong. And apparently they're going to keep on searching until they find a judge who has an answer they like.

In an effort to counter claims arguments like Ware's, the Prop 8 team is claiming that they don't think gay and lesbian judges aren't ever fit to rule in LGBT related cases, just not ones that directly impact their lives. "We know of no reason to believe, for example, that Judge Walker would have any personal interest in the outcome of litigation over, say, the constitutionality of the military's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy," they claim. " Nor would there be any issue with a gay or lesbian judge hearing this case so long as a reasonable person, knowing all of the relevant facts and circumstances, would not have reason to believe that the judge has a personal interest in marrying if Plaintiffs prevailed."

In other words, since Walker was in a 10-year relationship he probably wants to get married, which means his ruling is really just a glitzy high-profile marriage proposal clearly meant to show up the heteros who rely on their local sports stadium's jumbo-tron or a banner-pulling airplane to pop the question.

An obvious red flag here is the term "reasonable person," since anti-gay marriage foes don't seem to be the best judge of what a "reasonable person" is. It does not seem particularly reasonable to me to fight tooth and nail to keep civil rights away from a certain group of people arguing that marriage is yours and you'll be damned if you're going to share that institution with any queers.

Or, in the case of Prop 8ers vs. Judge Walker, let a queer tell you no.

Student claims principal shoved him over gay shirt

MADISONVILLE, Tenn. (AP)– A high school student says he was shoved and taunted by his principal because he wore a T-shirt supporting a gay-straight alliance, a claim the Monroe County School System disputes.

The Tennessee chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has entered the case on behalf of 17-year-old Chris Sigler and other Sequoyah High School students it says have been prevented by school officials from forming the alliance they call GSA. It threatened a lawsuit unless the school agrees by Tuesday to respect the rights of students to peacefully state opinions.

A high school student says he was shoved and taunted by his principal because he wore a T-shirt supporting a gay-straight alliance, a claim the Monroe County School System disputes.

Sigler and his family filed a police report over the Sept. 30 classroom confrontation with Principal Maurice Moser.

Monroe County Schools attorney Chuck Cagle told The Knoxville News Sentinel on Thursday that there are "vast, vast differences" between the family's allegations and what school officials say happened (http://bit.ly/rb24l0).

Sigler said Moser confronted him because it was the second time he wore a homemade shirt to school that said "GSA: We've got your back."

Sigler told the newspaper that Moser entered his classroom, dismissed the other students and grabbed Sigler by the arm and shoulder and pushed him into a wall.

"And then he started bumping me back with his chest, and I had to jump over a chair and a desk to get away from him," Sigler said.

According to the ACLU, when Sigler's mother arrived at the school she heard Moser shouting at her son, "Who's the big man now?"

A statement from Monroe County Schools said, "Our documentation clearly indicates that there are always two sides to every story. We'll gladly provide more information as it becomes available."


Chris Sigler was allegedly harassed by his high school principal.

ACLU of Tennessee legal director Tricia Herzfeld said the ACLU has been monitoring events at the school since August, when students unsuccessfully tried to form the GSA.

"When things started escalating, we decided to get involved to protect the free-speech rights of all students," Herzfeld said.

A letter the ACLU sent to the school this week said that school hasn't stopped students from wearing clothing with Confederate flags and sexual references even though the dress code prohibits rebel flags and vulgar or suggestive messages.

Apology demanded of Madisonville principal

WASHINGTON, DC– More than 80,000 people have joined a campaign on Change.org created by the Gay-Straight Alliance Network's Make It Better Project and the Tennessee Equality Project, calling for the principal of Sequoyah High School in Madisonville, Tennessee to be investigated for an alleged physical and verbal assault on a student who supported a Gay-Straight Alliance club at the school.

After denying more than 150 student requests to establish a GSA at Sequoyah High School, Principal Maurice Moser allegedly assaulted a student, 17-year-old senior Chris Sigler, who wore a homemade T-shirt to school that read 'GSA: We've got your back.' Principal Moser reportedly shoved Sigler, grabbed his arm, and bumped him in the chest while shouting "Who's the big man now!" at the student.

GSA Network and the Tennessee Equality Project, two organizations working to build safe schools for all students, launched the campaign on Change.org after allegations of Principal Moser's assault were made public. GSA Network had already been monitoring the situation at Sequoyah and working with the American Civil Liberties Union to advance student efforts to establish a GSA club.

According to the ACLU, authorities at Sequoyah High School have until this Tuesday to respond to an ACLU letter inquiring about efforts to start a gay-straight alliance at the school. "This horrific incident is exactly why there needs to be a GSA club at Sequoyah High School, and why youth and adults need to work together to make it better for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied youth," said Laura Valdez, Interim Executive Director of the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, which co-launched the petition on Change.org with the Tennessee Equality Project. "All students deserve a safe learning environment free from discrimination and the threat of physical violence. Moser's opposition to a GSA club is not only illegal, but his alleged actions against one of his own students demand a full investigation by local law enforcement authorities."

The campaign's growing popularity is likely to escalate pressure on the Monroe County Sheriff's Department to fully investigate Principal Moser's alleged assault. So far the Sheriff's Department has refused to interview Chris Sigler's sister, who witnessed the incident, or his mother, who witnessed Principal Moser screaming at her son after he wore the homemade T-shirt.

"It's remarkable what the GSA Network and the Tennessee Equality Project have accomplished in starting this campaign," said Michael Jones, senior organizer for Change.org. "In just a few short days, more than 80,000 people from around the country have joined with these two organizations to call for safe schools in Madisonville. Change.org is about empowering anyone, anywhere to demand action on the issues that matter to them, and this campaign is the latest example of organizations and people across the country using people-powered platforms to stand up for safe schools for gay and straight students alike."

Sign-on to the campaign

Live signature totals from the GSA Network's and Tennessee Equality Project's campaign:

www.change.org/petitions/investigate-harassment-of-lgbtq-youth-at-sequoyah-high-school-allow-a-gsa?te=seia

More online

For more information on the GSA Network, the Make It Better Project, and the Tennessee Equality Project, please visit:

http://www.gsanetwork.org

http://www.makeitbetterproject.org

http://www.tnep.org. www.change.org/about

Equality Calif. decides against Prop. 8 appeal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)– California's largest gay rights group has decided against trying to have the state's voter-approved ban on same-sex unions overturned next year. Equality California announced Wednesday that it would not lead a ballot campaign to undo Proposition 8.

The constitutional amendment limited marriage to a man and a woman five months after the state Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriages. Executive Director Roland Palencia says polls show voters are still divided and a court challenge that could overturn the measure is still pending.

As a result, he says the time is not right to undertake a risky and expensive ballot fight. Instead, Equality California plans to devote its resources to a public education and messaging campaign to counter beliefs that allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry harms children.

Group calls upon NY City to provide transgender people with accurate identification documents

NEW YORK– The Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund applauded Sunday's enactment of California's Vital Statistics Modernization Act, which removes the requirement that transgender people born in California provide proof of surgery in order to obtain an updated birth certificate reflecting their lived sex.

In place of the blanket surgery requirement, the act requires that transgender people present a medical certification from a doctor stating that they have undergone "clinically appropriate treatment."

California follows the United States Department of State, which similarly requires that transgender people provide a doctor's statement that they have undergone appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition in order to receive a passport with an amended sex designation.

"A birth certificate is a fundamental form of identification," said Noah Lewis, staff attorney at TLDEF. "By providing a realistic mechanism for transgender Californians to obtain birth certificates that reflect who they are, the Vital Statistics Modernization Act will help transgender people avoid harassment and discrimination in areas like employment, where ID is essential to proving eligibility to work."

"We applaud Governor Jerry Brown for signing this law and congratulate Equality California and the Transgender Law Center for their leadership on this issue." TLDEF currently is prosecuting a lawsuit against the city of New York and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, challenging the city's practice of requiring transgender people to undergo surgery before it will issue them birth certificates with corrected sex designations.

This is the first lawsuit to challenge a surgical requirement for correcting whether someone is classified as male or female on a birth certificate. It alleges that the city's surgical requirement is arbitrary, and that it subjects transgender people to harassment and discrimination in violation of the New York City Human Rights Law.

Calif. teen to be retried in gay classmate killing

VENTURA, Calif. (AP)– A teen accused of killing a gay classmate at a Ventura County junior high school will be retried on a murder charge after a first trial in which jurors could not decide on the degree of guilt.

Prosecutors on Wednesday announced their intention to pursue a murder charge in adult court against 17-year-old Brandon McInerney. However, a hate crime charge will be dropped, Deputy District Attorney Maeve Fox said.

Last month, a judge declared a mistrial after a nine-woman, three-man panel couldn't reach a unanimous decision on the degree of McInerney's guilt for killing 15-year-old Larry King. After a series of votes, seven jurors were in favor of a voluntary manslaughter conviction, while five others supported either first-degree or second-degree murder.

Superior Court Judge Charles Campbell set a Nov. 21 trial date, according to Fox, but it's unclear if it will be held in Ventura County. The first trial was moved to Los Angeles County due to pretrial publicity.

McInerney was 14 in February 2008, when he is accused of killing King at E.O. Green Junior High School during a computer lab class.

Prosecutors contend McInerney embraced a white supremacist philosophy that sees homosexuality as an abomination. Police found Nazi-inspired drawings and artifacts at his house, and a white supremacist expert testified at trial the hate-filled ideology was the reason for the killing.

Authorities maintained the shooting was premeditated and deserving of a murder conviction. During the trial, Fox noted at least six people heard McInerney make threats against King in the days leading to the shooting.

Defense attorneys acknowledged that McInerney was the shooter but explained that he had reached an emotional breaking point after King made repeated, unwanted sexual advances. They also have argued that juvenile court would be the best venue to try their client.

In a statement, Eliza Byard, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, said the organization "had hoped for a plea deal with appropriate terms that would hold Brandon fully accountable."

"Placing Brandon in jail is necessary, but will not fully address the problem," the statement said.

"The systems in place to support Oxnard students failed to avert disaster two years ago and resulted in this incredible loss. There is much to be done to fix these broken systems and hold adults accountable for their part in avoiding future tragedy," Byard said.

Peoria Diocese quits court fight over civil unions

BY CARLA K. JOHNSON

PEORIA, Ill. (AP)– The Catholic Diocese of Peoria announced Oct. 6 it plans to stop providing state-funded social services and withdraw from a court battle involving Illinois' new civil unions law.

The announcement comes two days after an appeal was filed by Catholic Charities affiliated with the Joliet, Springfield and Belleville dioceses, which are challenging a Sangamon County judge's ruling siding with the state of Illinois.

The charities wish to continue their state contracts, while also referring unmarried couples who want to be adoptive or foster parents to other agencies, citing principles of religious liberty and freedom of conscience.

The state of Illinois has said that longstanding practice is discriminatory, a violation of the new law, which allows unmarried couples _ gay or straight _ to legally enter into civil unions.

Bishop Daniel Jenky of the Peoria Diocese said in a statement that the decision to withdraw from the litigation and from providing state-funded social services was not made lightly.

"Public policy and state law, however, have increasingly clashed with church teachings in such a way that we no longer can maintain this partnership as a viable option," Jenky said.

The Peoria Diocese's approximately 1,000 foster care cases will be handled by a new nonprofit organization called the Center for Youth and Family Solutions, which intends to hire the existing child welfare staff of Peoria Catholic Charities, said Illinois Department of Children and Family Services spokesman Kendall Marlowe.

Peoria Catholic Charities will handle the cases through Jan. 31, giving the new agency time to obtain a child welfare license, Marlowe said.

"We commend Catholic Charities of Peoria for putting children first," Marlowe said. "They have a proud tradition of serving children and families in need and today's decision means that legacy lives on."

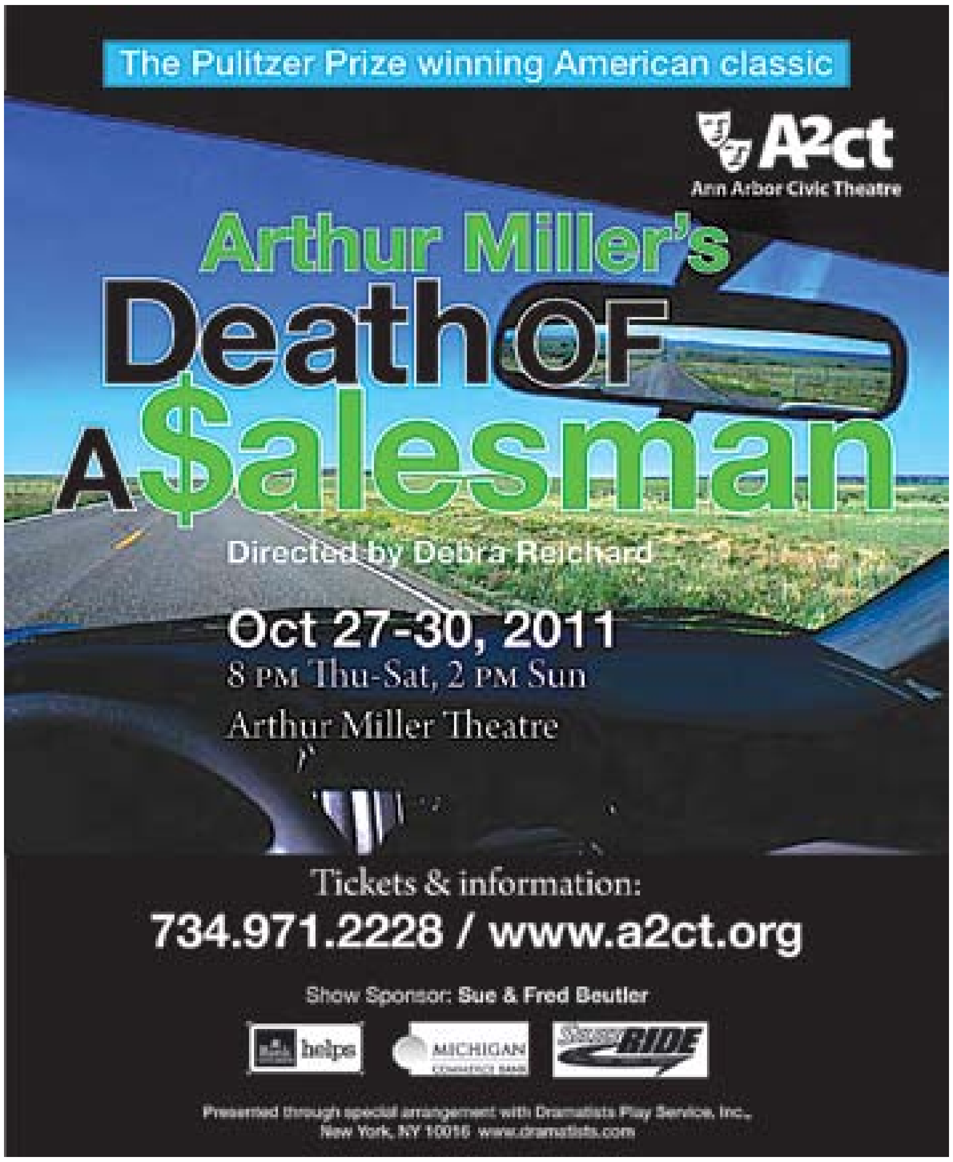
Peoria Catholic Charities' foster care contracts with the state total $15 million to $17 million annually, more than half the budget of the charity, said Patricia Gibson, general counsel for the Peoria Diocese and its charity.

"That's a big hit," Gibson said, and finances didn't play into the decision, Gibson said. Leaders in the diocese saw the opportunity to move all its foster care cases to one new nonprofit group would "minimize disruption in lives, particularly of the children that we serve," Gibson said.

Illinois ended contracts with Catholic Charities in the four dioceses in July because of the organizations' practice of referring unmarried couples to other agencies.

Diocese of Joliet spokesman Doug Delaney issued a statement about the Peoria decision.

"We understand the Diocese of Peoria's frustration with the state of Illinois' stance on foster-care contracts," the statement said. "Each diocese is making its decisions regarding this lawsuit that it finds appropriate to its operations and needs. Due to its own particular circumstances, the Diocese of Peoria has determined not to continue as a party to this appeal. We continue to believe in the merits of our case and remain hopeful that we will prevail on appeal."


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Beckett's Endgame and Watt
Gate Theatre of Dublin
Michael Cogan artistic director
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Thursday \ October 27 \ 7:30 pm
Friday & Saturday \ October 28 & 29 \ 8 pm
Power Center \ Ann Arbor
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Individual performances are sponsored by the Herbert S. and Carol L. Amster Fund and the Charles H. Gershenson Charitable Trust, Maurice Binkow, Trustee.
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BTL Auto Issue



Ben Timmins is associate web editor at Automobile Magazine in Ann Arbor. BTL photo: Matthew Paquin

From Gaga to gadgets, the LGBT community is ahead of the game

BY ANDREA POTEET

Did you love Lady Gaga way before the meat dress? Do you salivate waiting for Apple to roll out their latest tech toy? Do you have to have the latest fashions, gadgets and products?

Carmakers are counting on it, especially when marketing their electric vehicles.

A study by consumer research firm Strategic Vision recently found that cars that do well with LGBT buyers early on will generally do well with the wider market later, as they tend to buy newly released products on impulse 30 percent more frequently than the general population.

Among the aspects LGBT car buyers value are exterior and interior styling, technical innovations and environmental friendliness, which may explain why eco-friendly cars like the Toyota Prius and Nissan Juke ranked in the top 10 of cars purchased by LGBT shoppers in the Strategic Vision study.

Automotive Research Analyst Aaron Bragman, of IHS Automotive in Northville, said that while buying patterns are not tracked by sexual orientation, LGBT buyers are part of several demographics – including “double income, no kids” and those with above high school educations – who are actively targeted by makers of electric cars as “first adopters,” who tend to buy new products first.

“A lot of it is the technology,” Bragman says, “some of it is green awareness. It can be viewed as a good ecologically minded purchase, or another way people view it is like buying the latest and greatest Apple product, where it’s something you gotta have because you’re an early adopter and you like the new technology, and you can afford it.”

While he hasn’t seen any direct marketing of electric or hybrid cars to LGBT shoppers, he said carmakers have targeted them for their broader vehicle lines in the past and will continue to.

“The LGBT community is viewed positively by marketing people,” Bragman says. “They are a market a lot of auto companies like to cater to. On average, they do have the disposable income to use, and it’s something a lot of companies are looking at, is how to cater to the LGBT community in terms of marketing.”

To cater to that community, many car companies, like GMC, are improving their image with LGBT shoppers by granting domestic-partner benefits to employees and implementing anti-discrimination policies.

See LGBT Car Buyers, page 26



Fiat 500

Best Cars for Coming Out

BY NICK KURCZEWSKI, GAYWHEELS.COM

Coming out of the closet can be liberating, or terrifying. It can end up being a complete non-event, or the biggest change you'll ever face. For most people, myself included, it was a combination of all of the above (and much more). Without delving into clichés – like talking about "the road ahead," or being sure to check under the hood etc. – I recently wondered what might qualify as an ideal coming out car.

Depending on your situation, something fast as hell and with a tank full of gas might be the best option! But let's assume you have some form of support network – you're going to need room for at least a couple of friends. If you're of drinking age, you'll need spending cash for over-priced cocktails at all those new clubs and bars. And for the romantics out there, you'll need some money for flowers and chocolate.

This means our choices are going to be relatively roomy, budget-friendly, and lots of fun. So where exactly does that leave us? With a lot more options than you ever thought possible.

Fiat 500

If you want to make a splashy entrance, there's no better way to do it than in a Fiat 500. This little 3-door hatchback has Italian style and charm in abundance. That's good, because the 100-hp 1.4-liter engine is not going to challenge any Ferraris or Lamborghinis. At least the Fiat sips fuel, with a 38-mpg highway average (equipped with the 5-speed manual). The new 500C convertible is also probably the car most likely to be hugged – walk past one and try not saying "awww." For the truly fabulous amongst us, there is the limited edition 500 by Gucci. If you prefer to balance vanity with social awareness, Fiat has teamed with the Breast Cancer Research Foundation to create the 500 Pink Ribbon model. Fiat will donate $1,000 for each one sold.

Scion tC

Edgy-looking and fun to drive, the Scion tC is also built by Toyota, so you're still playing it safe and smart when it comes reliability and dealer service. A 180 horsepower 2.5-liter engine, coupled with either a 6-speed manual or 6-speed automatic transmission, powers the tC. The rear seats are a little too cozy for long drives with four onboard. However, the tC makes up for this by coming loaded with cool standard features, including an 8-speaker audio system, panoramic sunroof, power windows and locks, a/c, sporty front bucket seats and a grippy leather-covered steering wheel.

The new Fiat 500C convertible is also probably the car most likely to be hugged – walk past one and try not saying "awww."

Ford Fiesta

The Ford Fiesta – and the slightly larger Focus – is like that romantic European fling that unexpectedly turns into something serious. For years, Ford sold vastly more attractive and enjoyable small cars in Europe than it did here in the U.S. That's finally changed, now that the Fiesta 5-door hatchback and sedan have been brought stateside. It looks cute, has a meager appetite for fuel (29/40 city/highway) and a low base price of $13,995 (Fiesta S sedan) makes it easy on your wallet. The Fiesta is one of the cheapest cars on sale, but it sure doesn't feel it. Every Fiesta also comes with seven airbags and electronic stability control as standard.

VW Beetle

Let the haters say what they will, the newest New Beetle looks better than ever and has sharper dynamics than the slightly roly-poly previous generation. VW likes to refer to this as the more "masculine" Beetle – which once led me to ask a company rep if there was something wrong with female buyers. What this means is that the Beetle has a sportier and more hunkered down exterior, along with a range of economical engines that stretch up to a 200-hp 4-cylinder in the Beetle Turbo. The cabin has also been brightened up, with body-colored plastic on the dash. Does all of this make the Beetle manlier? Who cares, especially when the result is a car that has loads of attitude, but never comes across as being arrogant.

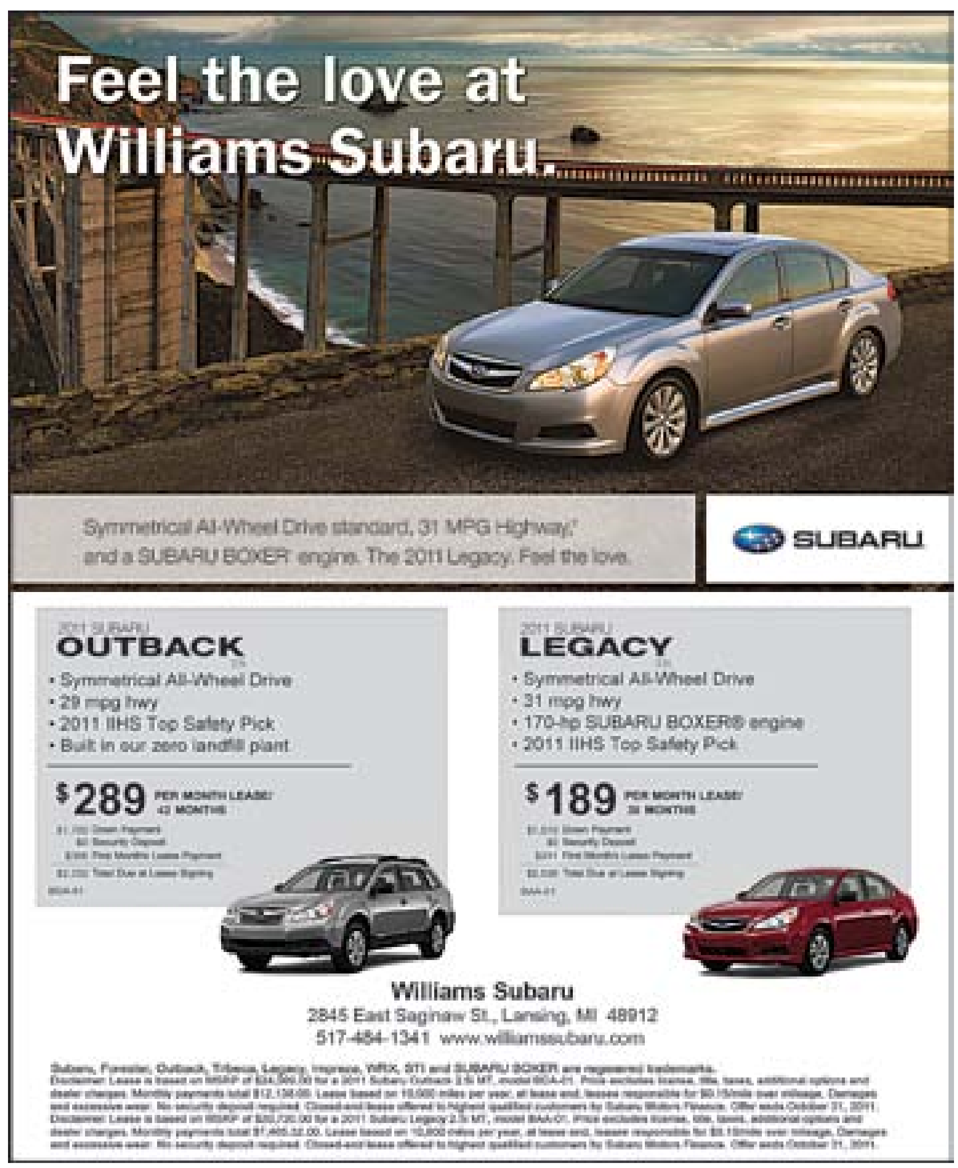
See Coming Out, page 24


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► Coming Out
Continued from p. 20

Mazda3

This is the "where have you been all my life?" kind of economy car. Mazda has a great reputation for building a range of vehicles that have the sharp steering and quick-shifting transmission you'd only expect to find in the Miata roadster. Available as a sedan and 5-door hatchback, the Mazda3 isn't flashy or verbose. It's like finally finding that special someone who, to your amazement, both you and your parents simply adore. If you crave a little more excitement, you could always opt for the wilder Mazdaspeed3, which comes with a 263-hp turbocharged 4-cylinder and rock solid ride. But like getting matching tattoos or piercings, sometimes less can offer much more in the long run. The standard Mazda3 is fine, just as it is. Sound familiar?

Chevrolet Sonic

This is the kind of moment when you confide to someone close and, OMG (!!!), they come out too. Chevrolet has burst onto the small car scene with the Sonic sedan and hatchback. Big headlights give this little Chevy an intense stare, and I'm particularly fond of the hatchback's hidden rear door handles – they're tucked onto the C-pillar. Small details add up to one very appealing package (get your mind out of the gutter). There is a choice of naturally aspirated 1.8-liter and turbocharged 1.4-liter 4-cylinder engines, equipped with either a 5 or 6-speed manual, or optional 6-speed automatic. Based on looks and performance, the handsome hatch fitted with the turbocharged engine and 6-speed manual is the one I'd take home.

Jeep Wrangler

When I was coming out, one major worry was that my passion for cars would never allow me to fit into the gay scene. Gay people could never be into cars and trucks, right? The Jeep Wrangler is honest, rugged, and proud to remain a little rough-around-the-edges. You might wear a new label, but that doesn't mean trading in your jeans and boots image. New and improved for 2012, some of the old edginess has been smoothed over – and the Wrangler is much better for it. A new 285-hp "Pentastar" V-6 engine provides all the power you'll need to enjoy mud-covered, off-roading antics. It's also quieter and more economical than the outgoing motor, proving you (and your trusty Jeep) have the brains to back up that brawn.


Jeep Wrangler

Honda Fit

You can't compile a "coming out cars" list and not include a model called the Fit. Don't let this little Honda give you any body issues; this pint-sized hatchback is as cuddly as a puppy and is eager to please. You'll be equally smitten by the Fit's rev-happy 1.5-liter 4-cylinder engine, and nimble steering that offers sports car-levels of excitement. Thanks to its futuristic cab-forward design, the Fit offers tons of cabin room for a car its size. And who can resist a vehicle that comes with a "Magic Seat" in the back? The bottom cushions of the 60/40-split rear seat can fold up, the seat backs can also fold down, and there is even a hidden storage compartment.

Mini Cooper

The Mini Cooper is the selfish choice here, if only because the driver's seat is by far the best place to be. Part of the reason is due to the cramped rear seating, which is best used for short trips, and with short friends and petite pets onboard. Keep your mind focused on the road ahead, and the Mini Cooper (especially in turbocharged Cooper S trim) immediately puts a smile on your face. Remember that jerk who called you names in middle school? Trust me, you won't once you're flinging the Mini into corners, and punching the gas pedal on the straightaway. There are a ton of options to personalize a Mini, from sporty alloy wheels, to roof-mounted flag decals, and wild racing stripes. The Mini ends up being all about you. And frankly, isn't it about time?

Article originally posted online at GayWheels.com on Oct. 5.


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Trina L. Foley, Monroe, MI resident since June 2005. Previously lived in Toledo, Ohio for 36 years. I celebrated my 1st Birthday here at the Monroe Superstore on Aug. 24, 2011. Collectively I have over 10 years of Sales experience in the Automotive Industry. I would like to personally invite anyone who lives within the tri-state area to give me a call, and find out why so many people have chosen the Monroe Superstore as their preferred dealer site that satisfies all automobile needs and desires! I look forward to many successful years to come while working at the Monroe Superstore, and can't wait to have the opportunity to earn your business and welcome you as a new member to our humble family!
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► LGBT Car Buyers

Continued from p. 19

GMC LGBT Communications Liaison Joe LaMuraglia said companies who want to make their brand more "gay friendly" should concentrate on a "sense of commitment" to LGBT issues and buyers.

"The LGBT community is large and a company should be consistent in their message," LaMuraglia says. "One ad in an LGBT media outlet does not make a gay-friendly company."

For all shoppers, the downside of most electric vehicles is the distance they can be driven before their batteries run out. Some, like the popular Chevrolet Volt, which was not mentioned in the Strategic Vision study, has a gas tank to back up the battery. Others, like the Nissan LEAF (Leading, Environmentally friendly, Afforable, Family car), require more frequent recharging.

"If I unplug my lease from the wall and I have 100 miles, I'm not going to drive 100 miles, because I'm desperately afraid of being stranded," says Ben Timmins, an associate web editor with Automobile Magazine in Ann Arbor. "I might drive 50, which is totally fine, but you're kind of pigeonholing yourself. Making a decision to buy a Nissan LEAF means you can fit your life into it, which kind of runs contrary to what a lot of American carmakers are saying car buyers want: a car that fits their life."

The popular non-electric Nissan Juke, which ranked 10th among LGBT buyers in the study, performs well with those buyers because it has the "X factor" they look for in a car, Timmins says. Some of that may have to do with its "polarizing" style.

"As someone in cars and as someone who is part of the LGBT population, I think that's kind of great that Nissan can sort of thumb their nose at people who don't like it," Timmins says. "It's that idea of 'if you don't like it, don't buy it.' It's something that many of us as gay people had to do, sort of thumb our nose at people and say 'you don't like us, don't talk to us, go away.' Nissan took a bold step. It's a car that's not right for a sizable portion of the American public. I think that might resonate with gay people who are really in touch with their minority status."

Timmins said many LGBT buyers also gravitate toward electric cars because they are on the cutting edge of technology and design.

"I think the LEAF and the Volt are almost like whipping out your iPhone back in 2005," Timmins says. "All your friends are sitting there with what we've now come to call 'dumb phones' and saying, 'Wow, that's the future.' I think a lot of gay people do like that – the future. And that's what these cars say when you put them in your driveway."

He said car companies may be highlighting specific attributes of vehicles that they know appeal to LGBT shoppers, but they aren't directly marketing to them.

"You get very few car manufacturers that will explicitly market to the gay population," Timmons says. "I think that because we comprise such a small part of the buying public, calling a car a 'gay car' is suicide. If you look at a lot of trending in German cars, for example, a lot of them have desperately tried to shake off the 'chick car' moniker. So, with this kind of dominant idea in some part of American media and the American mindset that femininity and homosexuality are kind of synonymous, making a 'chick car' kind of means you're making a gay car."

While it's hard to ascribe action to a group as diverse as the LGBT community, Timmins said that the results of the study ring true.

"It's definitely a stretch to say that the community of people who bought the iPhone or might have bought an iPad will absolutely definitely go out and buy an electric car," he says. "It's a huge stretch and I don't think it's necessarily true, but if you look at what Strategic Vision is telling us and you go by a gut feeling, yes, I think it should have some measure of success."

He said that while sexuality crosscuts every other demographic, the LGBT community is seen as trend-setters to marketers because of one trait they do share: an openness to change.

> "The LGBT community is viewed positively by marketing people. They are a market a lot of auto companies like to cater to."
>
> –Aaron Bragman,
> IHS Automotive Research Analyst

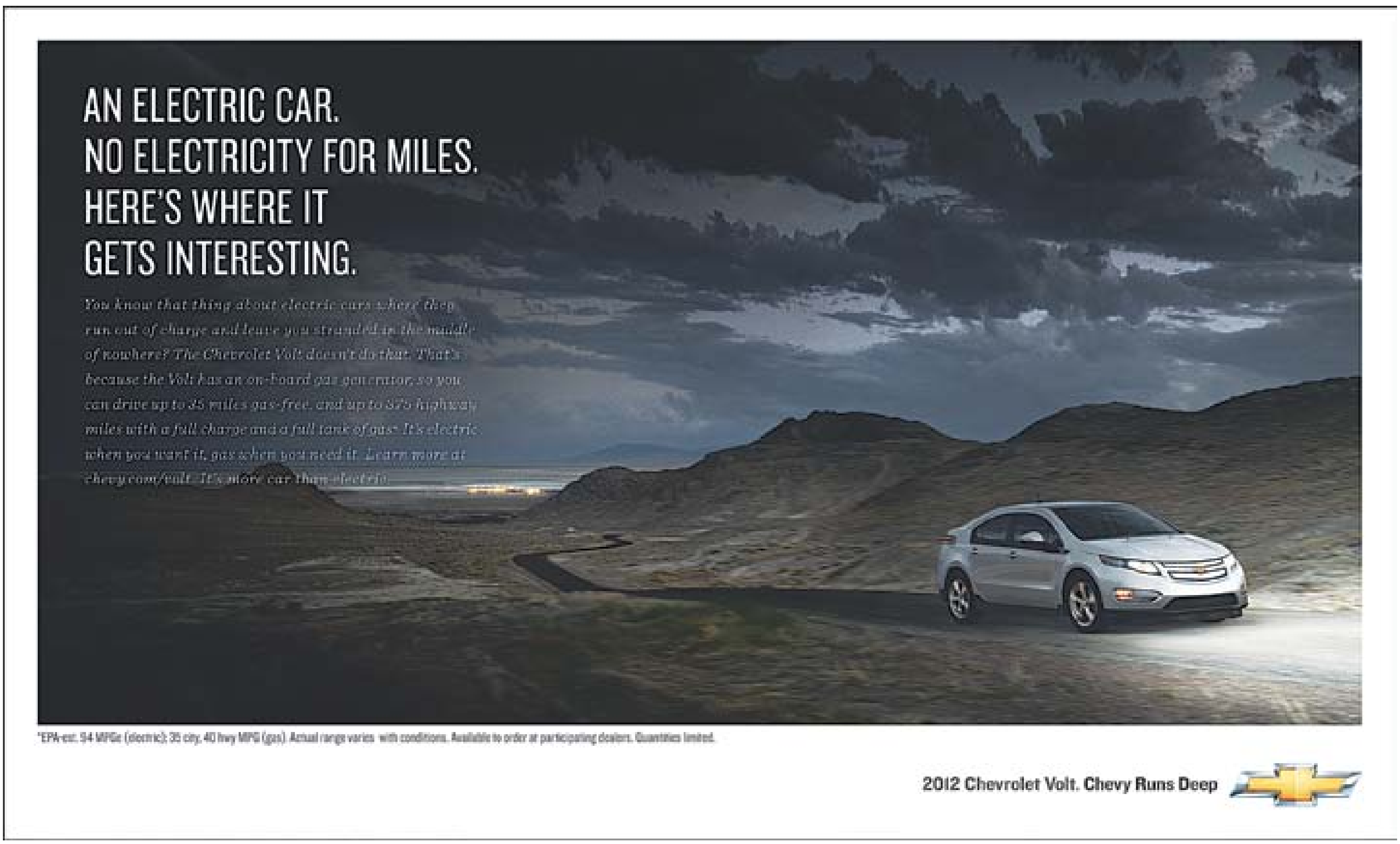
"If you want to look at it on a political scale, our very livelihood depends on change," Timmins says. "The gay American dream that some of our brethren in some of the Northeastern states are now living – the gay 1950s house, car, picket fence, 2.3 kids – that very idea depends on political change. This country is in flux with its attitude toward us, which we like – we are actively trying to have our perception change – and so, if we want change outside our front door, we might as well be open to it on showroom floors. "



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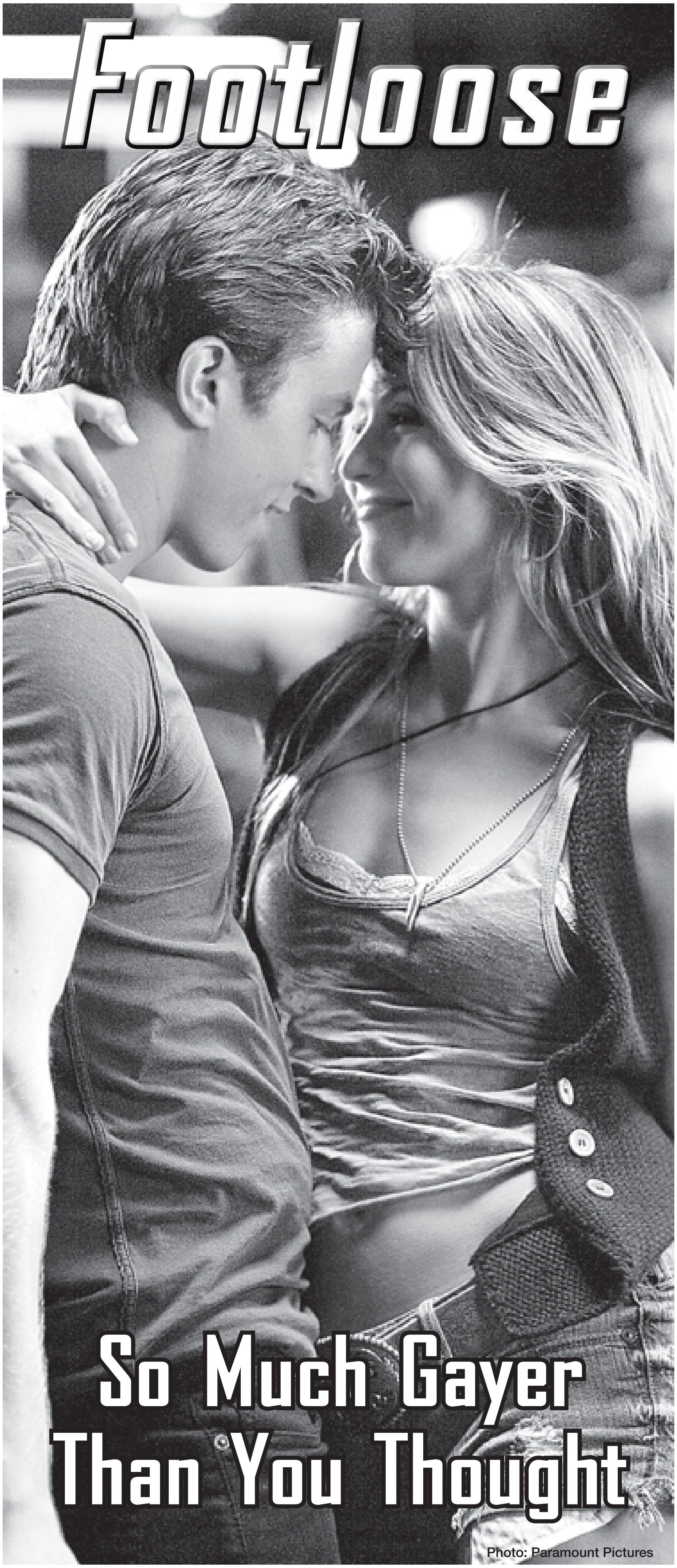


Photo: Paramount Pictures

Film's director and star on updating a classic, its subliminal gayness and the making of a new dancing heartthrob

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

"Footloose" is known just as much for its dancing as it is for the guy who did most of it: Kevin Bacon, who played Ren McCormack in the cult classic. But there's a new heartthrob cutting loose on the dance floor in director Craig Brewer's remake of the 1984 film.

Meet Kenny Wormald, a professional dancer out of Los Angeles who knows what he's in for with his first film: lots of gay fans. The 27-year-old, who stars alongside "Burlesque" actress/"Dancing with the Stars" winner Julianne Hough, takes on the star-making lead role, about a big-city boy moving to a small town where the local community rules that the root of so many problems is dancing. So, they ban it.

How could something so harmless be illegal? There's more to it than you think, Brewer tells us, discussing how the point of "Footloose" may have more to do with gay rights.

Sitting down at the MGM Grand Detroit last month, the "Hustle & Flow" director – along with Wormald, who said he's ready for all the gay adoration (if you saw him face-to-face, you'd know he has no choice) – also chatted about the missing shower scene, what was so gay about the '80s and how you don't have to be gay to get footloose.

Craig, what were important updates to make to a film that's over 25 years old?

Craig Brewer: The biggest update was the thing that initially bumped with me about doing a remake, because I'm sure there are plenty of people who are angry and asking why we're doing this – I was one of those people.

The head of the studio called me to say, "I just refuse that you're not going to do 'Footloose.' You have the story, you have the music, you have complete creative control over this. What's *your* 'Footloose'?" That made me stop and think. "Footloose" was the most important movie to me in my young adult life; it really made me who I was. I was a kid in community theater, a singin'-and-dancin' kid, and seeing that movie was an important seminal moment for me when I was 13.

I thought to myself, "If I did 'Footloose,' I needed to make it less about God damning kids to hell for dancing." It wasn't so much about the ban on dancing as much as – what's kind of our new American pastime – overreacting. So if something happens, we make a bunch of laws. But sometimes those laws cause more harm than they do good, and it usually takes somebody outside of the tragedy, outside of the whole town trauma, to say, "This is actually not right. This should be my right – I should be able to dance anyway I want."

It's another way of looking at the gay rights struggle.

CB: That may have been part of the intention all along. Dean Pitchford wrote the original movie and the lyrics of the song, and I think there was something there – that you could be a guy who wore a skinny tie and spiky hair and go to a school that does not dress this way, that you know is going to make fun of you for being really into gymnastics. There is a defiance that Ren McCormack represented. As a kid who grew up in the '80s with gay friends, Ren McCormack was a hero.

People refer to it as a gay movie at times because of the dancing and the cheese factor, to some extent, and I understand that and I get it – but there's a bigger theme there, which is, are you respectful and mature and confident in your own self that you can stand up in front of people and say, "Hello, my name is Ren McCormack"?

After giving us so much Justin Timberlake skin in "Black Snake Moan," I was very sad to see the notorious shower scene cut out of this "Footloose."

CB: I am so glad you brought that up! So glad! (To Kenny) I don't know if you know what he's talking about, but let's just say if the camera went down just an inch you'd see some junk.

It wouldn't be a family movie.

CB: (Laughs) It wouldn't be! And they're all talking about how to go up against the city council and they're all dripping wet, fresh out of the shower – Chris Penn, Kevin Bacon, that big beefy dude. You can totally see pubes!

My assistant always gave me shit, like, "What, you're not going to do the shower scene?!" But yeah, it's pretty erotic…for the right people.

Kenny, do you think most people still consider dance a "gay" thing?

Kenny Wormald: When I was getting made fun of, I saw "Footloose" and the dance scene, and Ren was masculine and cool and it validated what I did. I was like, "Screw you!" Look at this guy – he's awesome, he's cool, he's masculine. It definitely made me feel better about myself as a dancer.

Nowadays with all the television shows, "So You Think You Can Dance" and "Dancing with the Stars," it shows that dance isn't just for girls. Boys are doing hip-hop in the schoolyard and it's cool; they're not getting made fun of. It's amazing how it's changed in a matter of a decade or two.

When did you see the original "Footloose"?

KW: I was probably 10, sometime in the '90s. I was born in 1984. Me and "Footloose" came out together. (Laughs)

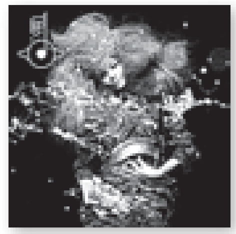
"Footloose" made Kevin Bacon a heartthrob – but not just for the girls. Gay guys fell for him, too. Are you prepared for the same kind of attention, Kenny?

KW: Absolutely. It's funny, I did a show called "Dancelife" on MTV and the majority of people who came up to me to say hey would be gay guys. I was flattered by that. But I embrace it. I love it. If it keeps happening and continues and they follow me in my career, it's beautiful.

See Footloose, page 35

by Chris Azzopardi

Björk's weirdly wonderful return, 'Biophilia.' Plus: Indigo Girls, back again



Björk, 'Biophilia'

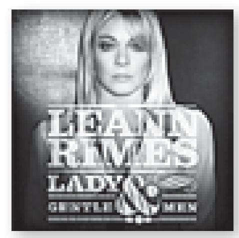
Breaking down Björk isn't easy. The Icelandic dancer in the dark's unpredictable output, ever since 1993's electro-pop "Debut," has been high-concept art that's challenged and provoked, concerned more with experimenting than straightforward melodies and gotcha hooks. The gradual pull of Björk's warped style takes hold once again on the progressively tinkered, iPad-made "Biophilia," her first playground of sound in four years. As fantastical as 2007's "Volta," though not nearly as sonically bipolar or off-putting, "Biophilia" is another out-there oeuvre, further establishing Björk as a shot of cheap vodka. This one, though, goes down easier. She whispers in with her otherworldly voice gliding over gentle strings on "Moon," a simple-sounding starter that's perfectly suited to set the scene of dream-like whimsicality. Because then there's the dark, ever-morphing, organ-strutted stunner "Thunderbolt"; the comforting ting-ting on the anthemic "Crystalline," which builds to a thrillingly spastic end as abruptly as a nightmare; and then "Cosmogony," easily the most gorgeous song on the album ("Virus" is nearly as breathtaking). It's almost empty as it fills up with Björk's angelic intones about, of all things, the Big Bang Theory. But that beauty fades on "Hollow," a churchy theater piece that's unsettling and probably suited for a "Human Centipede" musical. So yes, there's the usual imaginative weirdness about "Biophilia" – "Dark Matter" is exactly that – but there's also an accessibly that's not been part of Björk's recent work. That she can say so much with so little this time – when things go oh so quiet, the silence still speaks – is a testament to her evolving, and often misunderstood, talent. *Grade: B+*



Indigo Girls, 'Beauty Queen Sister'

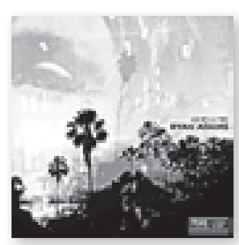
Three albums in two years and a constant touring schedule, it's almost impossible to keep up with the Indigo Girls. After last year's "Staring Down the Brilliant Dream" and "Holly Happy Days," their first holiday-themed LP, the gay-revered duo of Amy Ray and Emily Saliers do their thing on this 13-song set of reliable storytelling. But as they've come to show during the three-decade trajectory of their longstanding run, some reinvention is necessary to keep the magic coming. It ebbs and flows on "Beauty Queen Sister," which is, considering their seemingly bottomless breadth of material, a pretty decent album in their career canon. Overarching themes like love, loss and the world – the give and take – surface once again, but this is one of their most outward-looking albums, telling stories of good-ol'-days nostalgia ("Feed and Water the Horses") and a thoughtful rumination on the Egyptian revolution ("War Rugs"). It's not their most melodic or accomplished work (though they still nail those harmonies as they swap songs), and of the two other traditional studio albums released in just the last two years – so many CDs in so little time practically ask for comparisons – this latest one trails behind the rest. But it's growth. And so, as Ray and Saliers continue to shift sonically and stay fresh despite being workaholics, growing pains are almost inevitable. The biggest? "Able to Sing," a throwaway pop-rocker, and the dragging dud "Mariner Moonlighting." But there's also "Birthday Song" and string-soaked "Yoke," so good they nearly nullify any memory of the album's mess-ups. "Beauty Queen Sister" is prolific in that it's actually as good as it is – and with it, it's obvious: Indigo Girls aren't ready to give up their crown. *Grade: B-*

Also Out



LeAnn Rimes, 'Lady & Gentlemen'

Nasty affair. Eating disorder. Gay ex-hubby. Before becoming a tabloid target, LeAnn Rimes made headlines for her precocious talent. Now she's 29 and probably taking on more men than she ever has with her 13th album, a covers project of songs by country guy greats like Merle Haggard and Kris Kristofferson. Ballads still suit her best, especially her delicately nuanced "Help Me Make It Through the Night" and "When I Call Your Name," taking Vince Gill's track into soulful territory. An original, "Give," is conventional but noble, though she still does more with it vocally than her contemporaries could. Years later, Rimes is still one of the best talents in the business. Now that's something to talk about.



Ryan Adams, 'Ashes & Fire'

Many of Ryan Adams' best songs are melancholy. But an album full of them? That's just overkill. On his latest hit-or-miss disc, a return to the fab songwriter's alt-country roots, only a few songs stick around after the music stops, especially lead single, "Lucky Now," a lovely nostalgic number. Same goes for the tenderhearted "I Love You But I Don't Know What to Say" – his voice so quiet it's like he's only singing to you. Lots of them could melt a stone, but they muddle together because of their stripped simpleness. His voice, which helps things along, just isn't enough to change up the monotony. Cohesion, as it ends up, is the LP's best and worst enemy – the songs sound just fine together, but they don't stand well on their own.



Kiss and tell

Uh Huh Her's Camila Grey talks new album, diehard fans and breast cancer

Uh Huh Her

7 p.m. Oct. 18
Shelter
431 E. Congress St., Detroit
www.uhhuhher.com

BY ANTHONY PAULL

If you didn't already know Uh Huh Her, you do now. Leisha Hailey, one-half of the electro-indie duo Uh Huh Her and famously of "The L Word," made headlines recently for getting kicked off a Southwest Airlines flight for, as she reports, publicly kissing her girlfriend.

As luck would have it, we chatted with Camila Grey, her bandmate, before the brouhaha. But we still got the dirt on the duo's second full-length, "Nocturnes," which expands on their shimmery musical soundscape by turning up the volume and creating a hard-hitting big rock album, inspired by the likes of Pink Floyd, Joy Division and '70s psychedelic electro.

UHH's Camila Grey also chatted with Between The Lines about their tour (which brings them to Shelter in Detroit on Oct. 18) and promoting breast cancer awareness through a partnership with the Keep A Breast Foundation.

Admittedly, I got kicked out of my last Uh Huh Her concert because my friend Scott was fist pumping and colliding into the fans. I think he was trying to get the crowd going. Which Uh Her Huh song gets the biggest fan reaction?

First off, bring your friend to every show we ever have! (Laughs) As for the song, I think the fans react best to the material they're used to. They love "Not a Love Song," "Explode" and "Black and Blue."

"Common Reaction" had a shimmery rock feel, whereas the "Black and Blue" EP had a grittier rock appeal. What kind of sound were you going for with your latest, "Nocturnes"?

You know, we had just been dropped from our label, and I was upset by the way the record industry was working. I wanted to go off the map, so I approached my vinyl collection to find bands that inspired me in the first place. I listened to Pink Floyd, Joy Division and early Annie Lennox. We also had Wendy (Melvoin) producing, who worked with Prince, and it ended up being this big rock record. There are also some tracks that are electro and synth-based as well.

As indicated by the title, "Nocturnes" was recorded mainly at night. How do you feel that affected the mood of the record?

It's definitely sinister, a little dark. It was a pretty rough year going through a big breakup, along with being dropped from the record label. A lot of life-changing stuff happened to us so it takes on a darker feel, but I think there's a lot of hope to the songs too.

With many UHH songs, there seems to be an ongoing theme of reaching out to a lover that's in hiding or unable to connect. What's inspired that?

I take it from my life and the lives of others, hearing stories. It's not all about personal love. A lot of the songs aren't about a lover per se, but the love we had for the record company. There's a lot in the lyrics about parting ways with the record company and managers. A lot of the material is about being dumped and feeling at odds with the industry.

After losing the backing of a major label, what was your thought in regard to keeping the band going?

We weren't ready to be done. We were just building a fan base. "Common Reaction" was starting to hit when we lost our manager and label so we weren't about to give up or throw in the towel. I had some knowledge of labels so I put my business savvy into it. Ownership is huge. Now, we own our label and music. So we are seeing the fruits of our labor more readily.

It's interesting: Your fan base seems to have multiplied dramatically since you've taken the indie route. Other bands in the same position have seen greater success as well. Why do you think that is?

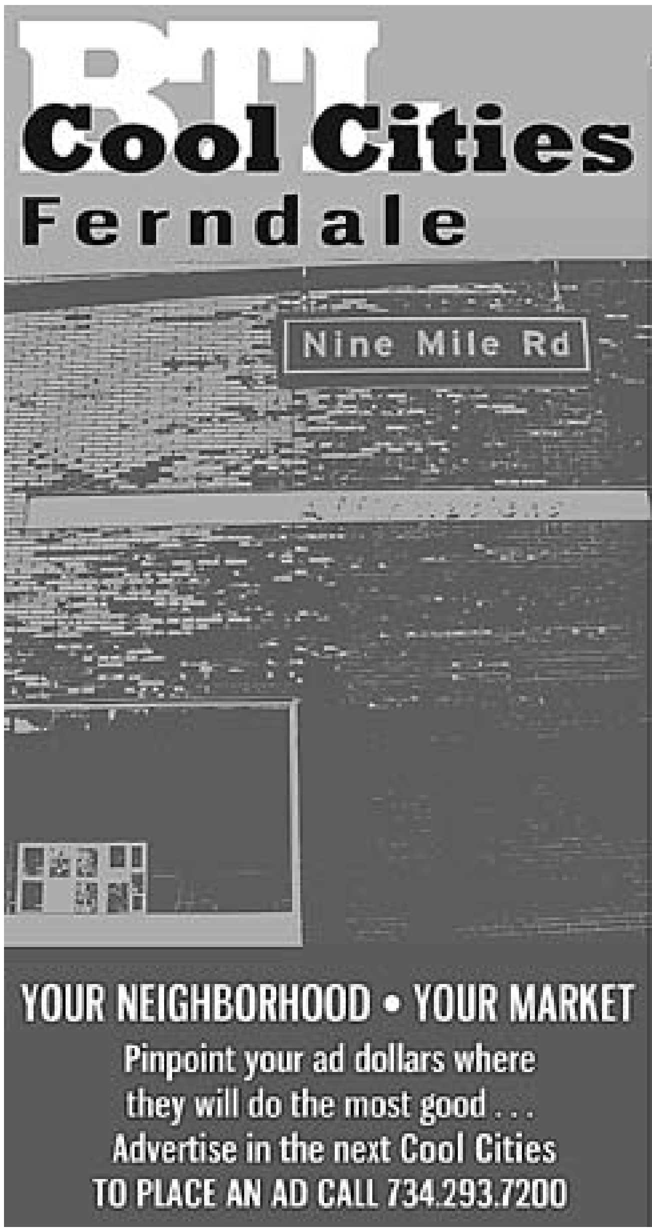
Our fans are diehards, thank god. People are rooting for us. Plus, I think the music is great. We are so grateful for our fans. Through Twitter, we are able to talk directly to them, so it's really helped us as indie artists.

As a graduate of the Berklee School of Music, you were classically trained. At the time, had you known where you were you heading, musically?

My parents got me a 24-track digital workstation, so I started recording early. I liked classic rock bands like Aerosmith. I also loved Joy Division and Depeche Mode. I wanted to make a hybrid of that. I was like, "Why aren't women doing music like this? Where are the ABBAs and Cardigans?" I wanted to fill that gap.

UHH has teamed up with the Keep A Breast foundation to launch a fall tour to promote breast cancer prevention. There seems to be a lot in the press about reducing cancer risks by adopting certain lifestyle choices, such as adopting a plant-based diet. What advice would you give females in regard to learning more about the disease?

I think awareness and education are so important. My grandmothers are breast-cancer survivors. Early detection is a key component to survival. Plus, a healthy lifestyle is super important. We're truly excited to partner up for the cause and bring the fans the new music on tour.



Frights in Ferndale

What's happening for Halloween?

This year a variety of LGBT and affirming organizations in Ferndale are hosting celebrations and fundraisers for the gayest holiday of them all: Halloween. Events for children and adults all ages are spread throughout the Ferndale area. Here's a few.

Friends of Ferndale Library's '80s Prom'

The Friends of Ferndale Public Library will host an '80s themed prom to benefit the library's young adult literature and services. The prom's '80s theme will feature entirely era-appropriate music, dancing, décor, food and beverages including a Depeche Mojito and Pac-man Punch (pre-spiked). Admission: $25. 7 p.m. Oct. 15. Friends of the Ferndale Library, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-546-2504.

Together We Can Detroit's 'Monster Bash'

Together We Can Detroit will host a sober "Monster Bash" Halloween party at Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church in Ferndale. Together We Can Detroit provides educational opportunities on substance abuse issues for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and allied communities. The event will raise funds for Alcoholics Anonymous sponsorships offered by TWC. Costumes are encouraged. Admission: $5. 9 p.m. Oct. 29. Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale. 248-838-9905. www.twcdetroit.com

Ferndale Public Library's 'Halloween Spooktacular'

Dress up in your favorite costume and join the Ferndale Public Library's Halloween celebration. Special appearance by Dan the Creature Man and his creepy crawlies. This is a special after-hours drop-in event for kids of all ages. Visit the Children's desk to register or call 248-546-2504. Registration closes Oct. 24. Open 5:30 p.m. Oct. 28. Ferndale Public Library, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-546-2504. jilleanmc@gmail.com

Detroit Zoo's annual 'Zoo Boo' celebration

Detroit's Halloween themed half-mile trick-or-treat trail for children returns this year with spooky graveyards, haunted reptile houses, witches vampires and more. This Halloween celebration will include games, arts, crafts, hay mazes and pumpkin carving. Tickets are $7 per person. Celebration begins 6-8 p.m., Oct. 14-16, 21-23 and 28-30. 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak. 248-541-57167. Detroitzoo.org/zooboo

Trick-or-treating downtown

Ferndale's Downtown Development Authority, a non-profit organization focused on revitalizing the Ferndale's downtown through promotion and community involvement, announced in September that the businesses of downtown Ferndale would hold pre-Halloween trick-or-treating for children. Early trick-or-treating begins at 4 p.m. and ends at 7 p.m. on Oct 29.



Friends of Ferndale starts the costumed celebrations with their '80s themed prom, Oct. 15.













BTL Dating Diet

BY ANTHONY PAULL

Diamond Life

BY ANTHONY PAULL

For the sake of keeping things fresh, I'm taking on a thrilling, new mysterious role in my relationship by keeping my boyfriend guessing about my exact location at any given time. The problem is the plan keeps backfiring. I wish I had more energy, but I'm too lazy to go out, so I rely on hiding in the bathroom, where I refuse to shit. I just hold and hold until diamonds are born. That's my theory, which I'm sticking to because I want my love to work, even if my boyfriend thinks I'm lying and eating too much fiber. I must cast myself in a heavenly light. Therefore, I don't eat. I don't shit. I don't…I don't know exactly what I do, but I need to be mysterious doing it. Does that make sense?

"Not really," says my bud Gabe. "If you want mystery then you need to vanish completely. That's how I keep my man interested."

Too bad Gabe doesn't have a man. Yes, he had a two-week rendezvous with a svelte bartender, but that ended when the guy started pretending to like girls again and stopped returning his calls. Now, I'm the only one left to pick up the receiver.

"He used the word 'love.' How could he do that?" Gabe asks me on the phone. Then hanging up, he updates his Facebook status, spouting inspirational messages to his friends and family. He says it gets him through the day.

It's not whom you're with but who you are. Love yourself before loving anyone else. Believe you can and you will. Aim for the stars, you might miss the moon. There is no "I" in relationship….

"Actually, yes there is," I reply to his thread.

Deleting the comment, Gabe says I'm not being a good friend. I should accept him for "who he is and what he's going through." He's just trying to stay busy to keep himself from contacting the bartender. Besides, it's my fault he's in this mess. I'm the one who suggested they go out.

"I told you date him, not fall in love," I say. "I don't get it. It's been two weeks. Why are you so attached? You don't even know his last name."

"That's because we were on a first name basis," he defends. "Right off, we had that kind of connection. Why doesn't he want to be in my life? My life is amazing."

Taking to Facebook, he continues his declaration, announcing the countless ways in which his life is grand. Even the most trivial things in his day are fabulous, down to the way the sun peeks through his window in the morning. It's phenomenal, the way it seems to wink just for me! In fact, his life is so amazing that he barely has time to call me unless he's having a breakdown. Even then, it's not a breakdown but a breakthrough.

"He hasn't called!" Gabe declares, after not hearing from the bartender in two weeks. "And I've been good. I'm not calling him either. I'm just staying invisible."

"That's smart," I reply. "If he's interested, he'll find you."

"I feel so liberated!" he sings. Then a breath later, he's back to his torch song. "But I don't understand it. What did I do wrong?"

"Nothing. You just might not be right for him."

"But why? Aren't I good enough?"

I laugh, but haven't we all asked ourselves the same thing? Why can't we just be satisfied with the fact that most people we date are not going to devote their lives to us even if we are amazing? Still, Gabe can't allow such a thought to resonate in his head. He's on a mission to reclaim his man.

I figure that's why I wake the next morning to find he's in a relationship with a new boy named Sebastian. It's complicated, the relationship status states. The two met during a dolphin ride on a Caribbean cruise last year. That's Gabe's story, though he gets quiet when I question why Sebastian has no Facebook friends.

"Why would he need friends? I'm all that he needs," Gabe says.

I urge him to delete the profile. "No one is buying it. You put his hometown as an island that's not even a real island. It's an island owned by a cruise ship."

"Look. It's surrounded by water. That makes it an island," he declares. "Why can't you be supportive?"

"Because you're lying, and you named him after a 'Little Mermaid' character," I say. Then sighing, I calm down, fearing I'll hurt him even more. "What are you doing, Gabe? Are you trying to make that bartender jealous?"

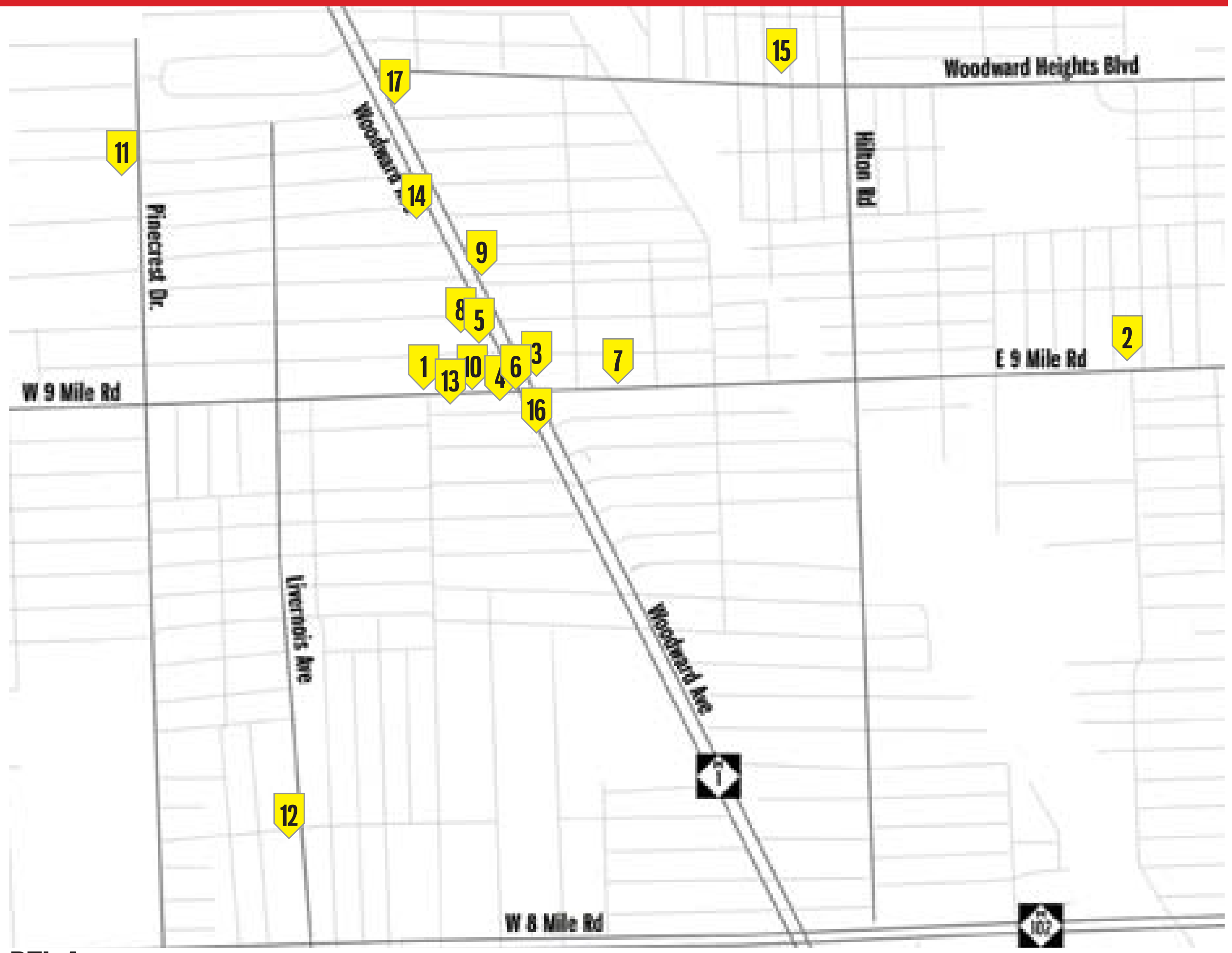
On the phone, his voice cracks, as he begins to cry. "I…I just want someone in my life. Everyone else on Facebook seems so happy."

"Do you really think they're happy though?"

"I don't know what to think anymore," he admits. "I'm just tired of feeling like I can't compete."

When did Facebook become about competition? I don't know about Gabe, but I remember when it was about connecting with friends, sharing pics and party invites. Yet perhaps he's right. Lately, it seems my family and friends have become more regulated, afraid of what they're mothers or co-workers might think, leading to newsfeed full of information that's generally cheery enough to require an airsick bag. I love my husband. My life is so amazing. Every day is a gift. Yes, it's good to remain positive, but at what point do we cause a detriment to those on our page? Honestly, lately, I find myself applauding anyone on Facebook willing to share a bit of weakness. To me, that's positive as well. That helps people like Gabe see that he's not alone. So maybe I'll start shedding some mystery and sharing sorrow too. After all, it hurts shitting diamonds, and I don't want Gabe believing that a boyfriend or society should expect him to.

Anthony Paull's novel, "Outtakes of A Walking Mistake," is available on Amazon.com.



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► Footloose

Continued from p. 29

CB: I've read some comments on Twitter. I think my favorite was, "I'm going to have to see 'Footloose' because that guy's kind of hunky hella hot." I'm like, Kenny's going to be huge in this community!

It's also, though, a testament to the role. I know a lot of people say it's Kevin's role and I understand that. Kevin did a lot for that role but, really, that role did a lot for Kevin. Back in '84, I didn't know who Kevin was, no one knew who Sarah Jessica Parker was, and that's the great thing that actually doing a remake affords a filmmaker like myself – that the title of the movie is actually the biggest star.

So how do I make people, especially young people, feel that same feeling that I felt when I saw it? Part of that is a fresh cast. When you have stars who've been in a bunch of movies now being the character that Kevin Bacon used to play, it just didn't feel right to me. It felt like what people were assuming would be the worst of our intentions, which was we're just doing this for a money grab. The biggest risk was that we took "Footloose" seriously.

When you look up "Footloose" and "gay" in Google, one of the links that comes up is, "Why does watching 'Footloose' make me feel gay?" Did you ever feel that way watching it?

CB: You know, per that comment, what's funny about growing up in the '80s is there are a lot of things that were kind of gay in the '80s, but we didn't completely know it. So yes, I was wearing fat-laced Pumas with neon shoelaces. Mousse was in my hair every day. And then, you're even in a more difficult position because you're a big Michael Jackson fan and you transition into being a Prince fan.

But with "Footloose," you can't help it – you're watching the angry dance scene and here's a guy dancing with Jerome Robbins' choreography. It's like "West Side Story." When I go to the angry dance scene and I'm seeing these guys in tight jeans and tight wife beaters and they're flipping their head around and dancing, yeah, it may look gay, but boy, I loved it. And my dad loved it. And all the beefy Marines that were working down in



Director Craig Brewer and actor Kenny Wormald of "Footloose." Photo: Paramount Pictures

Mare Island in Vallejo, Cali., they loved it too. (Laughs)

The language in the scene where Ren confronts his bully, Chuck Cranston, with a powerful comeback is changed from pansy to fag. Why that switch?

CB: We actually said pansy and I was worried. I didn't know if preteens were going to understand. We shot both pansy and fag. I was a little nervous about using the word fag – needless to say, a lot of collaborators on this movie, even from the original, are gay, and I remember going to them, "I really want to make sure this comes off right. I need Chuck to say this but Ren's reaction needs to show that he thinks it's unacceptable, but it needs to be in a cool way." So I played "Footloose" in Memphis, Tenn., and the line gets applause and I remember turning to my wife with a grin on my face going, "Could we be changing things with 'Footloose'?" Like, I can't believe I'm sitting here in a red state and the whole audience just reacted that way.

As a dancer yourself, how did you relate to Ren McCormack? And what did that line mean to you?

KW: I used to get it pretty bad in school. They knew I danced and they were kind of cool with it because I was on the baseball team, but all the new kids found out and it was hell, man. I'm at the water fountain and it's like, "fag," "ballet boy" or "pussy." It was pretty rough, specifically in junior high.

I'm a dancer in L.A. and I've been there for eight, nine years now, so I've become friends with literally some of the most flamboyant humans on the planet, and I love them and we're like brothers. They would – pardon my French – fuck someone up for me and have my back. My dance teacher growing up is a gay guy, and he's like my second dad. He's probably going to get a little choked up at that part. To have their back and to get to say that line in the film is very powerful.

You've also danced in videos for some major gay icons like Mariah and Madonna.

KW: I love what they've done for the community, so if I can get a little credit in that community, too – how great.

CB: You got a good start with "Footloose." (Laughs)

KW: Even without the shower scene! That'll be in the next one.

CB: The European version.

Editor's Picks

Outings



2008 Women's World Poetry Slam winner Andrea Gibson has a fast tongue and a sharp wit. Her poetry is both personal and political, addressing themes of gender norms, sexuality, class, patriarchy and white supremest capitalist culture.

Gibsons's first book, "Pole Dancing to Gospel Hymns," won the DIY Poetry Book of the Year and was nominated for the prestigious Pushcart Prize. Her poems have been showcased on Free Speech TV, BBC, Air America, CSPAN and NPR, as well as in the documentary "Slam Planet."

The Central Michigan University Gay and Lesbian Programs brings Andrea Gibson to their campus to perform for National Coming Out Day 7 p.m. Oct. 14 at Pearce 127. For more information, e-mail jolli1sm@cmich.edu.

Music & More



After trying stand-up comedy on a whim, Lynne Koplitz quickly began to headline the major comedy clubs of America. Her dark humor, spot on cadence and pearly white smile leaves audiences in tears of laughter.

Koplitz has made a number of television appearances during her career, such as performing a 30-minute "Comedy Central Presents," hosting the popular TV dating show "Change of Heart" and the cooking show "Hot To Boil Water" on the Food Network. Koplitz has performed at HBO's "U.S. Comedy Arts Festival" and Live at the Kennedy Center in D.C. Comedy Central places her at 13th out of 100 comics in their stand-up showdown. Clearly, Koplitz is a riot.

Koplitz will be performing at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Oct. 13-15 (no 10:30 performance on Oct. 13) at the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. For more information, go to aacomedy.com

Theater



"How are you feeling today?" On the surface this statement seems like one of concern, but underneath the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama "Wit" exposes the different levels of the phrase in an engaging, powerful and thought-provoking manner. The play runs Oct. 14-23 at the Baldwin Theatre on the 2nd Stage, 415 S. Lafayette in downtown Royal Oak.

Margaret Edson's play is a touching, powerful and often funny testament to human dignity. Vivian Bearing (Jane MacFarlane) is a professor and scholar of 17th-century metaphysical poetry with a specialty on John Donne, the great English poet who applied his wit to aspects of the human experience – mainly, life, death and eternal life. Bearing has just been diagnosed with Stage IV metastatic ovarian cancer and she talks to the audience, as if they were her students, about her introspective journey.

Advance tickets are $14. Half-price student night will be held Oct. 20. Tickets may be purchased by calling Stagecrafters at 248-541-6430.

OUTINGS

Wednesday, Oct. 12

LGBT in the Park, 5:30 p.m. Social and discussion group focusing on a variety of topics with speakers, social outings and events. Topic: 2012 Election. LGBT in the Park, 620 W. Woodward Heights, **Hazel Park**. 248-460-3251. Jffryoliver@yahoo.com

TransCend, 6:30 p.m. Open to persons 18 and older. Younger are welcome with parent or guardian permission. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer Street, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Tracy@kglrc.org kglrc.org

Drag Queen Bingo, 7 p.m. Hosted by Sabin in celebration of Coming Out Day at Central Michigan University. CMU Gay and Lesbian Programs, Powers 243 in the Powers Ball Room, **Mt. Pleasant**. Cmich.edu

Thursday, Oct. 13

Meet 'n Greet, 7 p.m. Meet new people, socialize and discuss age-relevant issues. Dinner at local restaurant afterwards. Ages 18-33. Metro Detroit LGBT 20Somethings, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. Det20somethings@gmail.com the20somethings.org

Friday, Oct. 14

Michigan Power Summit, 10 a.m. Grassroots organizing training for the LGBT community. A weekend conference put together by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Registration costs: $100. Learn to create winning strategy, engage voters, recruit a large team, etc. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, **Flint**. Cwollerman@thetaskforce.org thetaskforce.org

Riot Youth Weekly Meeting, 4 p.m. Riot Youth is a youth-led, safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, questioning youth and their allies (LGBTQQA) at the Neutral Zone, Ann Arbors' youth-driven teen center. Through leadership skill building, community organizing, networking, support and socializing, Riot Youth connects youth to build an inclusive community. Meets every Friday. The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-214-9995. Neutral-zong.org

Dinner at Rocky's of Northville, 6:15 p.m. Meet other like-minded people who enjoy food, friendship and good conversation. Group meets for dinner and social networking at a different restaurant on the second Friday of each month. Enjoy! Plymouth Lesbian Supper Meet up Group, 41122 W. Seven Mile Road, **Northville**. Rockysnorthville.com

Andrea Gibson Spoken Word Artist, 7 p.m. Powerful live performer Andrew Gibson, winner of the 2008 Women's World Poetry Slam, performs at CMU, hitting hard on themes of gender norms, sexuality, class, patriarchy and white supremest capitalist culture. CMU Gay and Lesbian Programs, Central Michigan University, **Mount Pleasant**. Andreagibson.org/poems

Older Lesbians Organizing, 7 p.m. Provides older Lesbians with the chance to meet like minded women in their common struggles, to share mutual interests and to play and work together. Meets the 2nd Friday of every month. Older Lesbians Organizing, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. jasmithers@sbcglobal.net

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film: Training Rules - This documentary explores the case of Jen Harris, a gifted college basketball player who was drummed out of Penn State's basketball program by Coach Rene Portland when she admitted to be a lesbian. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

Saturday, Oct. 15

Hike Kensington, 10 a.m. Meet at the nature center and we will take a 4 or 5 mile mostly flat hike around the lake. Come out and enjoy the fall colors. GOAL, I-96 Kent Lake Road Exit, Milford. Getoutandlive.me

Tea Party, 2 p.m. Tea Party benefit for KICK-The Agency for LGBT African-Americans. A member supported Michigan non-profit. KICK - The Agency for LGBT African Americans, 6426 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 313-285-9733. Info@e-kick.org e-kick.org

80's Prom, 7 p.m. 80s themed adult prom fundraiser, which will benefit the Teen Programming and Collections at the Library. Tickets: $25. Friends of the Ferndale Library, 222 E. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-546-2504. Cassrose17@sbcglobal.net Ferndalefriends.org/prom

Sunday, Oct. 16

The Conversation Station, 4 p.m. Topic: "Can children be raised by parents with conflicting religious beliefs and practices?" RSVP via e-mail or call so seating can be reserved. GetOutAndLive.me, 714 S Washington, **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

HARC provided HIV/AIDS testing, 5 p.m. HARC provides anonymous and free HIV counseling, testing and referral services through its outreach at the Jim Toy Community Center. HARC, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. Hivaidsresource.org/hiv-testing

Monday, Oct. 17

OUTober 2011 - Meeting the Movement: Equality Michigan, 7 p.m. Programming for Eastern Michigan University's OUTober 2011 introducing LGBT students to the LGBT activists, Equality Michigan. EMU LGBTRC, Eastern Michigan University, **Ypsilanti**. Emich.edu/lgbtrc/programs

Lansing Blood Drive, 11 p.m. Mitten Mavens will be hosting a blood drive for the American Red Cross at Foods for Living in East Lansing. Donate blood and meet the derby girls. Mitten Mavens Lansing Roller Derby, 2655 E. Grand River Ave., **East Lansing**. Mittenmaven@gmail.com mittenmavens.net

Tuesday, Oct. 18

GLBT Book Club, 6:30 p.m. Meeting at Warrilow's to discuss Sue Grafton's "U is for Undertow." MCC Detroit, 2140 Hilton Road, **Ferndale**.

Wednesday, Oct. 19

Ladies Who Lunch, 11:30 a.m. Ladies meet at Nina's Cafe for food and conversation. Contact Angie to make a reservation. The Resource Center, 1710 W. Main St., **Kalamazoo**. Angiehosewillard@yahoo.com kglrc.org

Film: Tracy St. James and the New Femmes, 6:30 p.m. Tracy St. James and the New Femmes focuses on the transgendered community. The film takes a look at the various classifications, which fall under the umbrella of transgendered, including transsexuals, transvestites, and drag queens through a series of interviews, commentary and drama. Shot by filmmaker James Bresnahan, this film offers insight and heart into a world which is often under represented. Ferndale Public Library, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-546-2504. Ferndalepubliclibrary@gmail.com

Thursday, Oct. 20

OUTober 2011 - Film: The Adonis Factor, 7 p.m. Programming for Eastern Michigan University's OUTober 2011 presenting the film "The Adonis Factor." EMU LGBTRC, Eastern Michigan University, **Ypsilanti**. Emich.edu/lgbtrc/programs

Polyamory Network, 7:30 p.m. Open and inclusive community of people living polyamorously, people interested in polyamory and people of, friendly to and curious about polyamory. Welcomes diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity. Polyamory Network, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. Jimtoycenter.org

Friday, Oct. 21

Bisexual Peer Group, 7 p.m. Meets monthly on the third Friday. Discussion relating to bisexuality, pansexuality, omnisexuality. Allies are encouraged and welcomed to attend. Building is handicapped accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. Biprideannarbor@gmail.com

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film: Between Two Women - Ellen, a working class mother in Northern England who struggles mightily with her feelings for another women who happens to be her 10 year old son's exuberant teacher. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Oct. 22

Partnerships in Parenting, 1 p.m. Promoting the importance of relationship and family development for LGBTQ parents and their children. Seeking to build a stronger connection between parents and children through social networking and community outreach. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 734-574-5953. Ky.intimates@gmail.com GoAffirmations.org

Lezread, 4 p.m. Ann Arbors book group for Lesbians. Meets the last Sunday of every month. Lezread, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. lezread@yahoo.com

State Equality Dinner, 6 p.m. State Equality Dinner event "Out on the Town" at The Henry in Dearborn. The gala evening is Equality Michigan's signature fundraiser. In addition to a VIP reception with live entertainment, the evening's festivities will feature a silent auction, formal dinner and afterglow celebration. The dinner program will include a guest speaker and awards ceremony celebrating recent achievements toward equality for Michigan's gay and transgender community. Tickets: $150 standard, $250 VIP, $50 afterglow party only. Equality Michigan, 300 Town Center Dr., **Dearborn**. 313-537-7000. Equalitymi.org

Lavender Event Dance Party for Women, 7 p.m. Women only smoke-free dance and social event. DJ'ed by DJ Jenn. Lavender Event, 3600 Plymouth Road, **Ann Arbor**. lavenderevent@yahoo.com

Until Love is Equal Autumn Gala, 7 p.m. Chef selected appetizer stations, cash bar, silent auction, and classical and jazz performance by Mark Moran. Special guest speaker Wade Rouse. All proceeds will help Until Love is Equal with their mission for LGBT equality. $25 per person until Oct. 10, $30 after. Until Love is Equal, **Holland**, 2255 S. Shore Dr. untilloveisequal.com

Karaoke Fundraiser/Halloween Bash, 8 p.m. Sing Out Detroit fundraiser with raffles, silent auctions, bowling and more. Halloween costume encouraged. Sing Out Detroit, 2101 E. 12 Mile Road, and **Warren**. Getoutandlive.me

Sunday, Oct. 23

The Conversation Station, 4 p.m. Topic: "Is Pornography Harmful to a Committed Relationship?" RSVP via e-mail or call so seating can be reserved. G.O.A.L., 714 S Washington, **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

See Happenings, page 38

TNTP debuts 'The American Crowbar Case'

BY JOHN QUINN

The artist can draw inspiration from limitless sources, some achingly beautiful, some grotesque. Consider "The American Crowbar Case" and the miraculous survival of Phineas Gage. On Sept. 13, 1848, 25-year-old Gage was foreman of a work gang blasting rock while preparing the roadbed for a railroad. After a hole was bored into a body of rock, one of Gage's duties was to add blasting powder, a fuse and sand; then compact the charge into the hole using a tamping iron – a large iron rod. The powder exploded, sending the 44 inch rod under Gage's left cheek bone, behind the eye, and out the top of his head; it landed some 80 feet away. Gage lived. He led a reasonably normal life for 12 years with a left frontal lobe curdled like cottage cheese.

"The American Crowbar Case" is an original musical by Gray Bouchard featuring the music of Match by Match. Originally it was a song cycle, exploring the emotional and personal consequences of such massive trauma. Playwright Jason Sebacher wrote the book to "match" the music. It's a play of "what ifs." What if Gage's brain damage changed his personality? What if it compromised his memory and time perception? What if, when picking up and relocating to Chile (where he drove a stagecoach), he forgot about important things left behind – such as a wife?

Reflecting the tenuous grasp Gage may have had on memory, the plot is not linear. Instead, it moves back and forth through time and location in fits and starts. It's a device that challenges the audience to sit up and pay attention. It's a simple enough story to survive the disorienting narrative.

In the here and now, two college professors (Jamie Weeder and Dan Johnson) meet by chance in a hotel hosting two different conferences. Each is presenting a paper on their common area of interest, the American Crowbar Case. Judith and Ian have differing views of Gage's personality changes because they are trying to fill gaps in the historical record from different disciplines. Their intense sparring revives the past for us, and we meet the historical characters as they might have been. After healing from his accident, Gage (Peter Geissl) no longer recognizes his wife, Constance (Julia Garlotte). He leaves home and ends up in Valparaiso, Chile shacked up with a hooker (Melissa Coppola). Constance follows. Can she revive his memory of their love, or has she lost him to "Missy?"

The prime plot, then, hinges on a single turn of events. If Gage don't go, there is no show. No dialogue, subtext or song provides reason for Constance's weakness as she tries to persuade him to stay. She doesn't even identify herself as his wife. She lets him go, thinking he's spent the night with some other man's wife.

The music is engaging and is a solid effort in the folk-rock tradition. Because the score predates the book, it does not so much further the narrative as provide commentary on the emotional context. There are some truly dissonant passages to match the characters' turmoil. Bouchard performs many of his own songs, becoming master of ceremonies and our guide. The performances are good, yet some whole phrases seem to be lost in the central microphone. Anything sung more than two or three inches away tended to fade.

A special note must be made of Melissa Coppola of Match by Match, who not only acts as music director but also plays "Missy" when not playing the piano or doubling on accordion or guitar.

Keith Paul Medelis, artistic director for The New Theatre Project, is responsible for bringing this together for the stage. The multi-media work by Janine Woods Thoma that accompanies the action works well in setting place and mood, and even allows visual reference to some of the clinical discussion of Gage's condition.

For a project based on 19th Century folklore, "The American Crowbar Case" feels surprisingly avant guard. Performing in a tiny "black box" theater behind Mix clothing boutique, the company is following in the tradition of the post-war theater underground. While Michigan Avenue will never be Broadway, it's a decent start.

REVIEW

The American Crowbar Case

The New Theatre Project at Mix Studio Theater, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Friday-Sunday through Oct. 23. $15. 734-645-9776.

www.thenewtheatreproject.org



The premiere of "The American Crowbar Case" is on stage at the Mix Studio Theater through Oct. 23. Photo: Keith Paul Medelis

You'll laugh till your pants fall off

DETROIT– "Don't panic! Don't panic!" Wayne State's Bonstelle Theatre is presenting what the New York Post proclaims as "the funniest farce ever written," Michael Frayn's Tony-nominated "Noises Off," from Oct. 14 - 23. "Noises Off" has become a staple in both professional and community theatres on both sides of the Atlantic, having won the London Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy and the Drama Desk Award in New York for Outstanding Ensemble.

Frayn has undertaken numerous rewrites in order to keep "Noises Off" fresh and up-to-date since its late 1970s inception, the most recent being in 2000. Making its Wayne State University debut at the Hilberry Theatre in the 1990-91 season, "Noises Off" will return to WSU in its updated form at the Bonstelle Theatre. Returning patrons, see it again for the first time. Newcomers, come see what this riot is all about!

A play within a play, "Noises Off" centers around a manic menagerie of itinerant actors rehearsing a flop entitled "Nothing On." Out-of-control egos, memory loss and passionate love affairs turn every performance into a high-risk adventure. Onstage and offstage hilarity ensues, progressing from flubbed lines and missed cues in rehearsal to mounting friction between cast members in the final disastrous performance of their dreadful bedroom comedy. "Noises Off" is a comic triumph of slamming doors, falling trousers and flying sardines that is not to be missed!

The Bonstelle Theatre, located at 3424 Woodward Avenue in Detroit, is a Broadway-style house with a 1,143-seat auditorium featuring a balcony. Here, future stars of theater, film and television follow in the footsteps of such successful alumni as Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning S. Epatha Merkerson (NBC's "Law and Order," "Lackawanna Blues"), Lily Tomlin ("9 to 5," ABC's "Desperate Housewives") and Ernie Hudson ("Ghostbusters," NBC's "Heroes).

Tickets are $12-$15 and are available by calling 313-577-2960, by visiting www.bonstelle.com or by stopping at the Wayne State University Box Office at 4743 Cass Avenue on the corner of Cass Avenue and Hancock.



Mike Gingerella, Kelli Marie Sarakun, Mackenzie Conn in "Noises Off" at the Bonstelle Theatre. Photo: Alexandra Stewart

Solution to puzzle from page 39

M	A	R	K	■	A	G	O	G	O	■	R	P	M
A	N	O	N	■	R	O	B	I	N	H	O	O	D
L	I	M	O	■	R	A	I	N	C	O	A	T	S
■	L	A	C	I	E	S	T	■	L	A	M	P	■
P	I	N	K	O	S	■	S	W	O	R	E	I	N
U	N	C	O	U	T	H	■	A	U	D	R	E	Y
B	E	E	F	■	■	A	R	I	D	■	S	S	E
■	■	■	F	L	I	G	H	T	9	3	■	■	■
A	S	P	■	A	L	S	O	■	■	W	I	F	E
F	L	E	E	T	S	■	S	I	T	I	N	O	N
B	I	N	G	H	A	M	■	B	I	S	T	R	O
■	M	A	R	E	■	O	P	E	N	E	R	S	■
N	I	L	E	R	I	V	E	R	■	M	U	T	E
F	E	T	T	U	C	I	N	I	■	E	D	E	N
C	R	Y	■	P	I	E	T	A	■	N	E	R	D

► Happenings

Continued from p. 36

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

Detroit Chamber Wind & Strings "30 Something" Looking back 30 years to first-season favorites with brass works by Gabrieli, Canzona 28, and Bartok, Bagatelles; woodwind works by Dvork, Slavonic Dance No. 15, and Krommer, Octet-Partita, Op. 57; and the crowd-pleasing Handel-Halvorsen Passacaglia for violin and viola. Tickets: $25 general, $22 seniors, $10 students. Virgil H. Carr Cultural Arts Center, 7700 2nd Ave., Detroit. 3:15 p.m. Oct. 22. 248-559-2095. Detroitchamberwinds.org

Detroit Chamber Wind & Strings "Third Coast Percussion" New music ensemble Third Coast Percussion will be featured on Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings first Nightnotes concert of the series. Tickets: $22 adults, $10 students in advance. Detroit Chamber Wind & Strings, 20300 Civic Center Dr., Southfield. 8 p.m. Oct. 14. 248-559-2095. Detroitchamberwinds.org

Detroit Chamber Wind & Strings "Nightnotes Third Coast Percussion" Come as you are to enjoy great music. This Chicago-based ensemble uses an impressive array of percussion instruments to create a performance experience like no other. Tickets: $22 general, $10 students. Hagopian World of Rugs, 850 South Old Woodward, Birmingham. 7 p.m. Oct. 14. 248-559-2095. Detroitchamberwinds.org

University Musical Society "State Symphona Capella of Russia" Features 50 voices of Russia, founded in 1991 as a result of a merger of the USSR State Chamber Choir and the State Symphony Orchestra of the USSR Ministry of Culture. Ticket information available at ums.org. St. Francis of Assisi, 2250 E. Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 13. 734-764-2538. Ums.org

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Mondays at the Max with Wayne State: University Orchestra" In cooperation with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Wayne State University Department of Music presents Mondays at the Max with Wayne State, a new concert series featuring premiere Wayne State student ensembles at the Max M. Fisher Music Center. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 10 - Dec. 12. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Tchaikovsky's 'Pathetique'" Jerzy Semkow leads the DSO performance of Tchaikovsky's final work, the "Pathetique" Symphony. Tickets: $15+. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 20 - Oct. 21. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

COMEDY

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase Lynne Koplitz of Comedy Central Presents: Lynne Koplitz, performed at HBO's Montreal Just for Laughs Comedy Festival twice, co-hosted comedy cooking show "How to Boil Water" on the Food Network and "Show & Style" on NBC. Tickets: $10-15. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Oct. 13 - Oct. 15. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

CONCERTS

Fox Theatre "Il Volo" For the millions of U.S. fans who fell in love with the astonishing talent of Il Volo following their show-stopping appearance on American Idol, the pop-opera boys are coming downtown. Tickets: $25-75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 4 p.m. Oct. 16. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Joe Louis Arena "Michael Jackson The Immortal World Tour" Combination of Michael Jackson music and choreography with Cirque du Soleil creativity to give fans worldwide a unique view into the spirit, passion and heart of the artistic genius who forever transformed global pop culture. Tickets: $58-253. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Drive, Detroit. Oct. 15 - Oct. 16. 313-396-7000. Olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre Evanescence with special guests The Pretty Reckless and The Rival Sons. Tickets $36. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W Fourth St, Royal Oak. 7 p.m. Oct. 24. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark Karen Casey & John Doyle. Tickets: $20. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 12. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark Tony Furtado. Tickets: $15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 13. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark Trevor Hall. Tickets: $15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 19. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Nervous but Excited CD Release" Tickets: $15. Latest release is their most exploratory volume of work to date. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Oct. 14. 734-761-1800. Nervousbutexcited.com

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra "An Evening of Rodgers and Hammerstein" Favorite hits from Oklahoma!, The Sound of Music, The King and I and South Pacific. Tickets: $19. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 14 - Oct. 16. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

The Whiting The Bacon Brothers Tickets: $19-39. Philly natives Kevin and Michael Bacon performing a mixture of folk, rock, soul, and country. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley, Flint. 7 p.m. Oct. 14. 810-237-7333. TheWhiting.com

The Whiting Brad Garrett, best known for his Emmy nominated role as Robert in CBS's hit series Everybody Loves Raymond. Tickets: $19-49. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley, Flint. 8 p.m. Oct. 22. 8102377333. Thewhiting.com

University Musical Society Goran Bregovic, Balkan music superstar known for fusing fresh, modern influences with traditional ethnic sound. Touring with a 20-piece ensemble consisting of a brass band, a classical string ensemble, an all-male choir, and two Bulgarian female singers. Ticket information available at ums.org. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 15. 734-764-2538. Ums.org

OTHER

University Musical Society "Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan" Trained in tai chi, meditation, Chinese opera movement, modern dance and ballet, the company performs a rich repertoire with roots in Asian myths, folklore and esthetics, all infused with a contemporary perspective. Ticket information available at ums.org. Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 N. Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Oct. 21 - Oct. 22. 734-764-2538. Ums.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Cave of Forgotten Dreams" Tickets: $4-6. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Oct. 14 - Oct. 16. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Cobo Center "Detroit Free Press Marathon Health and Fitness Expo" Go to detroitfreepressmarathon.com for more information. Cobo Center, One Washington Blvd, Detroit. Oct. 14 - Oct. 16. 313-877-8777. Detroitfreepressmarathon.com

Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings "Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings' 30th Year Gala" DCWS celebrates its 30th season immediately following the 30 Something concert. Tickets are $125 for patron admission and $75 for general admission. Virgil H. Carr Cultural Arts Center, 7700 2nd Ave., Detroit. 5:30 p.m. Oct. 22. 248-559-2095. Detroitchamberwinds.org

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Conspiracy $10. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Oct. 20 - 30. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

First Baptist of Ivy Gap $12. SRO Productions at Historic Burgh, 26060 Berg Road, Southfield. Through Oct. 23. 248-796-4645. srotheater.org

King Lear $23. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through Oct. 15. 269-343-2280. kazoocivic.com

Terra Nova $12. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. Through Oct. 15. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

The 39 Steps $20. St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild, 400 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Oct. 14 - 29. 248-763-3672. stdunstantstheatre.com

The Odd Couple $33. Starlight Dinner Theatre at Waverly East Intermediate School, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Oct. 14 - 22. 517-243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com

To Kill a Mockingbird $14-16. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Through Oct. 22. 248-553-2955. farmingtonplayers.org

Wit $14-16. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Oct. 14 - 23. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

A Doll's House $12. WSU Studio Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Oct. 20 - 29. 313-577-2972. wsustudio.com

A Streetcar Named Desire $15. Michigan State University's Department of Theatre at Pasant Theatre at the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Oct. 14 - 23. 1-800-Wharton. whartoncenter.com

Blithe Spirit $20. The University Theatre of WMU at Williams Theatre in Gilmore Theatre Complex, Kalamazoo. Through Oct. 16. 269-387-6222. wmutheatre.com

Noises Off $15. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 14 - 23. 313-577-7679. bonstelle.com

Suddenly Last Summer $26. University of Michigan Department of Theatre and Drama at Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. Oct. 13 - 15. 734-763-5213.

The Full Monty $26. UM Department of Musical Theatre at Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. Oct. 13 - 23. 734-971-2228. tickets.music.umich.edu

The Imaginary Invalid $15. EMU Theatre at Quirk Theatre, Quirk Dramatic Arts Building, Ypsilanti. Oct. 14 - 22. 734-487-1220. emich.edu

PROFESSIONAL

A Behanding in Spokane $20. Breathe Art Theatre at The Furniture Factory, 4126 3rd St., Detroit. Oct. 14 - 30. 248-982-4121. breatheartheatre.com

A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine $12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Oct. 15. 313-577-6798. wsushows.com

Carmina Burana $29-121. Michigan Opera Theatre at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Oct. 15 - 23. 313-237-SING. michiganopera.org

Daddy Long Legs $34.50-44.50. The Gem Theatre, 333 Madison Ave, Detroit. Through Nov. 20. 313-963-9800. gemtheatre.com

Escanaba in da Moonlight $25-$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 17. 734-433-7782. purplerosetheatre.org

Evil Dead: The Musical $25. Who Wants Cake? at City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Oct. 29. 800-745-3000. whowantscaketheatre.com

Freud's Last Session $39.50 - $44.50. Century Theatre, 333 Madison St., Detroit. Through Nov. 20. 313-963-9800. gemtheatre.com

Gazillion Bubble Show $25-49. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Oct. 14 - 16. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com

Hedwig and the Angry Inch $20-10. Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Oct. 14 - Nov. 7. 248-545-5545. whowantscaketheatre.com

Jersey Boys $35 and up. Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Through Oct. 16. 1-800-Wharton. whartoncenter.com

Lend Me a Tenor $10-20. Great Escape Stage Company at The Franke Center for the Arts, 214 E. Mansion St., Marshall. Oct. 19 - 31. 269-589-5127. greatescapestagecompany.com

Masters of Illusion Live! $20-50. Miller Auditorium, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. 8 p.m. Oct. 14. 269-387-2300. millerauditorium.com

Much Ado About Nothing $15. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. Oct. 13 - 16. dogstorytheater.com

Murder Me, Murder Me, My Darling, My Darling! $14-16. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Oct. 21 - Nov. 19. 586-771-6333. broadwayonestage.com

My Fair Lady $25-$55. Miller Auditorium, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. Oct. 18 - 19. 269-387-2300. millerauditorium.com

My Fair Lady A snobbish and misogynistic professor wagers he can turn a Cockney flower girl into a "proper lady" in three months' time. $30-60. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 22 - Oct. 23. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

My Son The Waiter: A Jewish Tragedy $35; $89.95 dinner package for two. Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Oct. 13 - 30. 1-800-745-3000. andiamonovitheatre.com

Seance 4 $10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Oct. 21 - Nov. 5. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Something Wicked This Way Comes $30-39. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through Oct. 29. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

Southwest Story $20. Matrix Theatre, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Oct. 14 - Nov. 13. 313-967-0999. matrixtheatre.org

The American Crowbar Case $15. The New Theatre Project at Mix Studio Theater, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Through Oct. 23. 734-645-9776. thenewtheatreproject.org

The Dead Guy $22-$25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Through Oct. 30. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org

The Laramie Project $20. What A Do Theatre at First United Methodist Church, 111 E. Michigan Ave., Battle Creek. Through Oct. 22. 773-744-8598. whatado.org

Time Stands Still $25-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Oct. 23. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Turning Points $18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Through Oct. 29. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

Under the Streetlamp $17.50 and above. Broadway Grand Rapids at DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. 7 p.m. Oct. 16. 1-800-745-3000. understhestreetlamp.com

Yankee Tavern A staged reading. $7. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 6 p.m. Oct. 16. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

YOUNG AUDIENCES

Mickey & Minnie's Magical Journey $18-55. Disney on Ice, Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. Oct. 12 - 16. 1-800-745-3000. ticketmaster.com

Once Upon A Time $12 adult, $8 children. Wild Swan Theater at Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. Oct. 20 - 22. 734-995-0530. wildswantheater.org

The Firebird $10 adult, $5 children. PuppetART, Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Saturdays through Oct. 29. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

The Fisherman and His Wife $10 adult, $7 children. Children's Theatre Network at Performance Network Theatre, 120 E Huron St, Ann Arbor. 1 p.m. Oct. 15. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

ART'N' AROUND

Cass Cafe "6 Degrees" Exhibit of paintings by Detroit-based artist Craig Paul Nowak. The show features a range of works in a variety of media, and features large-scale portraits drawn from the artists' circle of family and colleagues. Cass Cafe, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. Aug. 27 - Oct. 29. 313-831-1400. Casscafe.com

Farmington Downtown Development Authority "Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market" Each Saturday. Fresh Michigan produce, baked goods, locally produced honey, handcrafted soaps and emollients, fine art and jewelry, photography and a variety of unique, artisan-made products. Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion, 33113 Grand River Ave., Farmington. May 28 - Oct. 29. 248-473-7276. Downtownfarmington.org/Downtown-Events/Whats-Happening/Farmers-Artisans-Market

Flint Institute of Arts "Quilting Traditions: The Art of the Amish" Amish women's traditional quilts assembled by collectors Marsha and Thomas French. Examples are from the Amish communities in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana from the 19th to mid-20th century. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Sep. 9 - Nov. 13. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "All Dubrovich Invitational" Features the works of FIA Art School faculty member, Alla Dubrovich and her students in the Bishop Gallery. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Sep. 19 - Oct. 16. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Handcraft "Hand-Crafted Photography" In this modern age of digital cameras and highly representational imagery, there is a growing number of artists and photographers rediscovering vintage techniques from the early days of photography. Although these "alternative" methods now frequently start with a digital negative, each finished photograph is painstakingly crafted by hand using processes that are little known to many photographers, such as cyanotype, platinum/palladium, gum bichromate and Van Dyke. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. Oct. 5 - Oct. 29. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "barely there" Group exhibition featuring James Lee Byars, Luis Camnitzer, Jason Dodge, Pable Helguera, Christoph Keller, Lee Loazno, Rivane and Sergio, Neuenschwander, Wilfredo Prieto, Pascale Marthine Tayou and Adolf Wolfli. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 27 - Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Stephanie Nava: Considering a Plot (Dig for Victory)" A work in progress, developed by French artist Stephanie Nava. Its installation at MOCAD marks the artist's first solo exhibition in the United States. The installation is based on the specifications and history of English allotments, or subsistence gardens. Started in London in 2005 as part of the Institute Francais Villa Medicis Hors les murs residency program. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 16 - Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Swords and Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery "Beyond the Wall: Images of Israel-Palestine" Barbara Barefield, a Detroit photographer, member of JVP and an organizer of the exhibition, expresses the hope that "this exhibition may bring the realities of this tragic conflict to the attention of our Jewish community as well as all metro Detroiters." Detroit's Central United Methodist Church, 33 E. Adams Avenue, Detroit. Sep. 24 - Nov. 5. 313-963-7575. Jvpdetroit.blogspot.com

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Detroit Revealed: Photographs 2000-2010" Contemporary artists present photographs and video inspired by Detroit, its people, diverse culture, and industries in work created from 2000-2010. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. Oct. 16 - Jan. 29. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection" The DIA received the rich art collection from James Pearson Duffy, Detroit's most unorthodox collectors. Showcases drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs. Free with museum admission. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. Sep. 15 - Feb. 29. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

The Gallery Project "Umwelt (Subjective World)" Multimedia exhibit in which over 20 local, regional, and national artists and scientists explore the unique sensory worlds of animals. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Sep. 23 - Oct. 30. 734-997-7012. Thegalleryproject.com

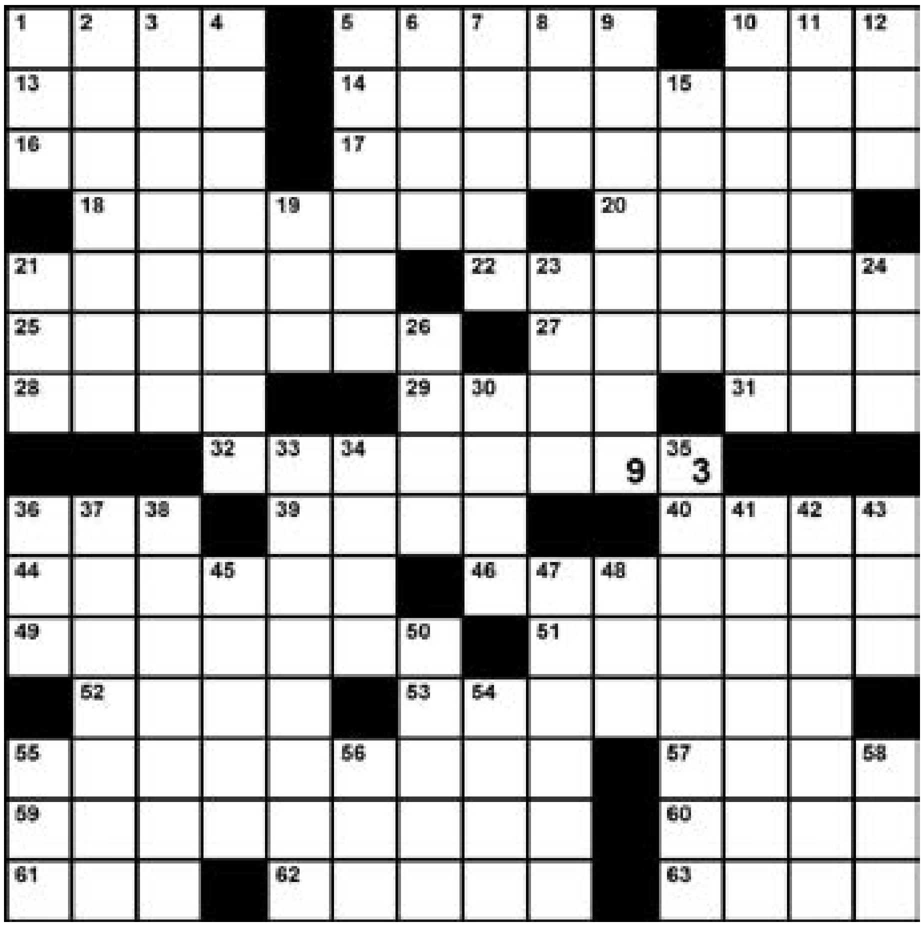
The Henry Ford "'The Wizard of Oz' Children's Exhibit" Visitors will step into a child-size Land of Oz with stops at the Gale Farm, Munchkinland, The Crossroads, The Witch's Castle and The Emerald City before heading back, because, of course, "there's no place like home." The Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn. Oct. 1 - Jan. 9. 313-982-6001. Thehenryford.org

The Rust Belt Market "A Pinch of Spice and More" Rust Belt Market for vintage, design, and art. Woodward Ave. & 9 Mile Road, North West Corner, Ferndale. June 25 - Nov. 20. 246-622-1621. Apinchofspiceandmore.com

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Mike Kelley: Day is Done" UMMA inaugurates its New Media Gallery this fall with Mike Kelley's "Day is Done," which continues the artist's career-long investigation into the relationships between order and transgression, popular and avant-garde culture, while touching on contemporary notions of trauma and repressed memory. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor. Aug. 27 - Dec. 31. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Multiple Impressions: Contemporary Chinese Woodblock Prints" 114 works by 41 artists, including Xu Bing, Kang Ning, Song Yuanwen, Chen Qi, He Kun, and Fang Limin, as well as many other accomplished printmakers. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor. July 16 - Oct. 23. 734-763-4186.

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Mark di Suvero: Tabletops" Best known for his dynamic and monumental works made of industrial steel and salvaged materials that populate museum grounds, landscapes, and urban environments around the world. In addition to countless exhibitions and awards, in March 2011 President Obama honored Di Suvero with the National Medal of the Arts in a White House ceremony. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor. Oct. 8 - Feb. 26. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu



Remembering 9-11

Across

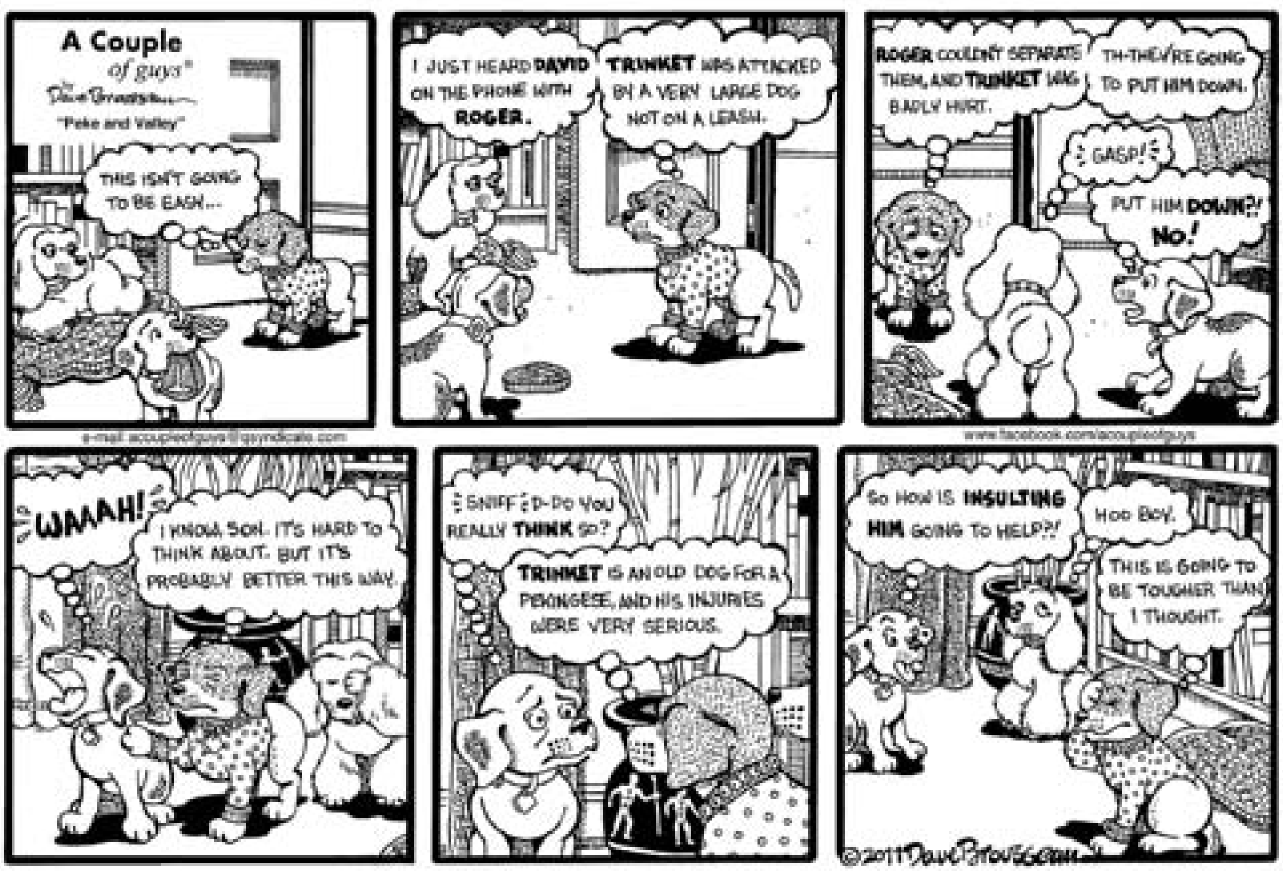
1 With 49-Across, gay hero of 9-11
5 Part of a club name
10 Speed meas. of a Johnny Mathis record
13 Soon, long ago
14 Leader of men in tights
16 Oscar-night transport
17 Condoms, slangily
18 Most like sexy undies
20 Robin Williams' home, in "Aladdin"
21 Left-wingers, of old
22 Prepared for questioning
25 Gauche
27 Hepburn of "The Children's Hour"
28 Jerky meat
29 Dry as a bone
31 U-turn from NNW
32 Last journey of 1-Across
36 Venom source
39 Errol Flynn's "The Sun ___ Rises"
40 Bridal party
44 Loads of ships
46 Audit
49 See 1-Across
51 Place for a light meal
52 Horse that isn't hung
53 Tools used on the can
55 Cleopatra's queendom
57 Not using the tongue
59 Some eat it semi-firm
60 James Dean's "East of ___ "
61 Shed tears
62 Mother-and-son piece
63 Overly brainy sort

Down

1 Baudelaire's "Fleurs du ___ "
2 Dye ingredient
3 Lesbian pulp novel, perhaps
4 Cheap imitation
5 Take into custody
6 Wear the disguise of
7 Parting words
8 Part of a pink lady
9 Tickled pink
10 Gadabouts
11 Deep-dish entrees
12 L. Cruz and C. Torres, on "Grey's Anatomy"
15 Squirrel away
19 Note to be paid
21 Bar in the homeland of Elton John
23 Hold one's horses
24 "Men Behaving Badly" writer Simon
26 Fag ___ (women with gay friends)
30 P's pronounced like R's
33 Get slick in the shower
34 Ingrid's role in "Casablanca"
35 Trio that went to see Mary
36 Mil. jet locale
37 More disreputable
38 Illegal use of hands, to Kopay
41 Gate-crash
42 "A Room with a View" author
43 Rocker Brian
45 Wading bird
47 Peninsula where the rain falls mainly on the plain
48 What a man may be made of, in Oz
50 Oscar nominee, perhaps
54 House opener?
55 Bears org.
56 Here, to Colette
58 Put a halt to

Solution on 37





Pet of the Week



Meet Pattycake! A 2-year-old Pug/Beagle mix, she weighs 30 pounds and is fully grown. She has a gentle demeanor and big brown eyes that are hard to resist. Come meet Pattycake today! Her adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations and much more. Visit or call the Michigan Humane Society's Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care at (248) 852-7420 and provide the pet ID number, 700139. Photo by Heidi Waeschle-Gabel.

101-ANNOUNCEMNTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday
7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Gay AA, 306 N. Division St. Closed/Discussion.

Bloomfield Hills-Thursday
7:00 pm ,Sobriety in The Hills Gay AA, Kirk in The Hills Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd. Closed/Discussion.

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday
8:00 pm, Downtown Gay AA, Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 West Fort St. Closed/Discussion (Open 1st Friday of every month).

Farmington Hills-Monday
8:00 pm, Suburban West Gay AA, Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halstead (Between 10 & 11 Mile Roads) Closed / Discussion.

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday
11:30 a.m., Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

Ferndale-Wednesday
8 p.m., Diversity Wednesday Gay AA, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 540 W. Lewiston @ Livernois. Closed/Discussion.

Ferndale-Saturday
1 p.m. Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.
8 p.m. Go After Your Sobriety Gay AA, Drayton Ave Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest. Closed/Discussion.

Livonia-Friday
8 p.m., West Side Story's Gay AA, Providence Medical Center, 7 Mile & Newburgh. Closed/Discussion.

Pontiac-Tuesday / Thursday / Sunday
8 p.m., Pontiac Gay AA, Shrine of St. Joseph, 400 West South Blvd. Closed/Discussion.

Warren-Monday
7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay AA, Faith-Trinity United Church of Christ, 12221 Martin Rd. East of Hoover. Closed/Discussion.

202 REAL ESTATE - HOMES FOR SALE

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428 PROF. SERVICES - MASSAGE

GROUP MASSAGE
- For Gay and Bisexual Men. Learn some massage techniques and meet others in a safe and caring environment. Tuesdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Thursdays at 2 p.m. $10 per session. 209 West Kingsley in downtown Ann Arbor. (734) 662-6282 or email Massage4@aol.com. http://www.trymassage.com

701 HEALTH & FITNESS - BEAUTY CARE

Hair Studio 22 (Shades The Salon)
Call to book your appointment today with Douglas and receive 50% off your first time visit. Competitor coupons accepted. Hair Studio 22 (Shades The Salon) 47928 Van Dyke Shelby Township, MI 48317 Phone: 586-731-3344, or Douglas' Cell: 616-821-7933.

BTL Horoscopes

Get rocking, Scorpio!

BY JACK FERTIG

The Sun conjoins Saturn in Libra, clarifying the limits of relationship. Such reality checks can be unpleasant, but romance can't last without work and realism. Work on it!

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Not getting the attention you want, especially from the person you want, can make you especially cranky. Avoid angry and inappropriate outbursts "Brilliant" inspirations probably need some work, but your creative juices are high. Show what you can do.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): If you're not partnered yet you might meet that someone special by the end of the week! There's no predicting true love, but exciting, challenging conversations can open doors to meeting amazing new people. Don't be shy!

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Fanciful notions can take a dark turn, either delicious or morbid. If morbid, stay with it and see where that's coming from. Focus on work! Your colleagues deserve some input on new ideas that affect them "before" you take any initiative.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): You're shining at work, although that might make you feel precarious, as on a tight rope or "king of the hill" needing to defend yourself. Acknowledging the effort and support of others will help you feel less lonely at the top.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Taking yourself too seriously is sure to lead to arguments. If you're really so smart, prove it by taking a class in something entirely new, or read a book that will challenge your mind.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Take conversations to new depths. Challenging your own thinking is smarter than challenging others'. Someone you're sweet on may be ready to get more intimate. Raise the subject, but be careful and read the signals carefully to know how.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Sex and money are the biggest issues in relationship. Both are likely to come up. The actual argument would be over money; sex could even be the resolution, but either way, stay focused on what's important and where your partner ranks on that list.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Working your ass off, but does anyone notice? It may not seem so, but they do. Keep your attention on your goals and don't worry about the attention. Opportunities for love – or a rocking facsimile – are coming up. If you got love, get rocking!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Boundary issues with co-workers need some discussion. Financial opportunities will be coming up soon, but they'll need hard work and perhaps some sacrifice. Don't screw it up by arguing with someone who wants to help. You can say, "No, thanks," politely.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Friends who challenge you can be the best friends around – or are they? Pay close attention. Are they really for you or against you? Be attentive, especially when you don't like what they say. Even from enemies, harsh criticism can prove helpful.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Wanting to show off your intellect could end up demonstrating your limits more than your genius. Don't speak too soon and be open to teachers who can help you toward even clearer thinking. An open mind makes you a better partner.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Hiding feelings of loss and dread only makes them worse. Sharing them with your partner can help increase emotional intimacy. Many others feel the same. This experience and your strong empathy will soon prove helpful.

Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is available for personal and business consultations in person in San Francisco, or online everywhere. He can be reached at 415-864-8302, through his website at www.starjack.com, and by email at QScopes@qsyndicate.com.





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BTL Deep Inside Hollywood



Justin Timberlake. Photo: Screen Gems

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Justin Timberlake's got the beat

.If you're old enough to remember disco's heyday, then you know Casablanca Records. It was "the" dance music record label of the 1970s, home to Donna Summer, The Village People, Cher and even Kiss (who scored their one disco hit thanks to the label). And it was masterminded by marketing genius Neil Bogart, who was as extravagant and party-minded as the times themselves. Well now "Spinning Gold," a biopic about the late music mogul, is in the works with Justin Timberlake acting as both producer and star. There's no other cast or details just yet (for example, who'll play Summer and Cher? Where will they find enough rollerskates?), but when it all falls into place you can expect a trip into hedonism, hit songs, happy-making chemicals and "Hot Stuff."

Ellen DeGeneres and Jane Lynch will make it a 'Laughing Stock'

Comedy junkies, get ready, because "Laughing Stock" is coming. A project from veteran comic/director David Steinberg and producer Steve Carell, the forthcoming Showtime series promises interviews and profiles of the most prolific comic talents of the past fifty years. The short list alone is impressive: Carell, Ellen DeGeneres, Tina Fey, Jane Lynch, Sarah Silverman, Judd Apatow, Mel Brooks, Chris Rock, Larry David, Jerry Seinfeld, Carl Reiner, Don Rickles and more. In other words, over the course of the 10-episode series, you'll get to hear way too many firsthand accounts of what drives funny people to do what they and witness the mechanics of comedy dissected by people who are usually always "on." The punchline? You have to wait until 2012.

Lee Daniels taking a trip to 'Valley of the Dolls'

In 1966 it was a wildly popular, groundbreaking scandal of a novel. Then, in 1967 it was a wildly popular (and compellingly bad) movie. Over the years there've been sequels to the book, a TV miniseries version in the '80s and even a low-budget, syndicated late-night soap opera in the 1990s. The cult of Jacqueline Susann's "Valley of the Dolls" is that strong, with new generations discovering its retro glamour and trashy appeal. So it makes sense that "Precious" director Lee Daniels wants to resurrect it all once again for television. His plan is for a primetime series, not cheap midnight fare, but that's about the only information available for now. In other words, there's little more here than an announcement, but sometimes announcements are all you need to stir up the excitement of hardcore "Valley" fans. Details as they develop.

'The Glee Project' refuses to stop believing

"Glee"? A record-breaking pop culture phenomenon. But "The Glee Project"? Less so. How much less so? Well, remember that 3D "Glee" concert movie that nobody went to see? The low-rated "Glee Project" was sort of like that, only free and on television. In other words, they couldn't give it away. But sometimes shows just need time to develop and build their audience. And the powers that be must have gotten at least something of what they wanted from the reality competition, because a second season casting call is already in the works. Will tenacity pay off for the struggling Oxygen show? Will an audience rise up to meet it during season two? And does it matter? Because either way, it's probably a cost-effective way to restock the show as aging "high schoolers" move on, no matter how many people tune in for the process.

Romeo San Vicente never stopped believing, but then again he never really started in the first place. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.